CABINET

Monday 6 July 2026
10.00 a.m.
Council Chamber, Rotherham Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH

Cabinet Members:-

Leader of the Council	Councillor Chris Read
Deputy Leader & Children and Young People Portfolio	Councillor Victoria Cusworth
Adult Social Care and Health Portfolio	Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers
Housing Portfolio	Councillor Linda Beresford
Finance and Community Safety Portfolio	Councillor Saghir Alam
Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces Portfolio	Councillor Lynda Marshall
Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy Portfolio	Councillor John Williams
Communities Portfolio	Councillor Sarah Allen

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

CABINET

Venue:	**The Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham. S60 2TH**
Date and Time:	**Monday 6 July 2026 at 10.00 a.m.**
Agenda Contact	**Governance Unit – governance@rotherham.gov.uk**

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view via the Council's website. The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

Rotherham Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair or Governance Advisor of their intentions prior to the meeting.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies from any Member who is unable to attend the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

To invite Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests they may have in any matter which is to be considered at this meeting, to confirm the nature of those interests and whether they intend to leave the meeting for the consideration of the item.

3. Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions from members of the public who wish to ask a general question in respect of matters within the Council's area of responsibility or influence.

Subject to the Chair's discretion, members of the public may ask one question and one supplementary question, which should relate to the original question and answer received.

Councillors may also ask questions under this agenda item.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 13 - 28)

To receive the record of proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 8 June 2026.

5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Agenda Items 14 and 17 have exempt appendices. Therefore, if necessary when considering those items, the Chair will move the following resolution:-

That under Section 100(A) 4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

6. Adult Social Care Strategy 2027-2032 (Pages 29 - 71)

Report from the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress update in relation to the current Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy 2024-2027.

2. Approve a formal consultation period to inform development of a Refreshed Adult Social Care Strategy 2027-2032.

3. Note that the outcomes of the consultation and the final Strategy will be presented to Cabinet in March 2027.

7. Health Select Commission Scrutiny Review - Menopause (Pages 73 - 89)

Report from the Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Receives the recommendations listed as approved by Health Select Commission:

<u>Public Awareness and Information, Including Engaging Men and Young People:</u>

a) That the Council seeks to improve public awareness of perimenopause and menopause through:
   i) The establishment of a single, well-promoted online menopause resource on the RotherHive or another appropriate online medium, supported by printed information that can be accessed via relevant community settings accessible to the digitally excluded.
   ii) That bespoke targeted content aimed at men, young people and employers is included in that resource to ensure a holistic and borough wide approach to raising awareness.
   iii) That the Council works with education providers including schools and colleges to ensure that young people receive age appropriate advice and guidance regarding the effects of the menopause and how to seek support if they or their loved ones are affected.

<u>Primary Care Improvement:</u>

b) That the Council seeks to support Primary Care Improvement in relation to perimenopause and menopause through:
   i) Encouraging the adoption of a 'Menopause Champion' in every GP Practice in Rotherham, and sharing information regarding GPs' Menopause Champions once achieved.
   ii) Encouraging, via the 'Menopause Champion' GP network and in conjunction with the NHS Healthcare in the Community Agenda, Development of the Town Centre Health Hub and through collaborative work with TRFT (The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust), RDaSH (Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust) and South Yorkshire ICB (Integrated Care Board), the establishment of a clear and consistent menopause pathway, including consistent assessment tools and referral guidance.
   iii) Encouraging, through the 'Menopause Champion' GP network and collaborative work with TRFT, RDaSH and South Yorkshire ICB, the expansion of GP and practice staff training through Protected Learning Time and online modules to further support service delivery, consistency and capability to provide perimenopause and menopause care in Primary Care settings.

<u>Mental Health Support:</u>

c) That the Council seeks to improve Mental Health Support during perimenopause and menopause by:

i) Encouraging health partners, including GPs to embed menopause screening questions within Talking Therapies and other mental health pathways.
ii) Increase the visibility of mental health support options within all menopause information, advice and guidance materials.

Community Support and Engagement:

d) That the Council seeks to improve Community Support and Engagement during perimenopause and menopause by:
   i) Working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to expand menopause cafés and community information sessions across more venues.
   ii) Working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to further develop outreach support to minority ethnic communities, faith groups and groups with language barriers.

Workplace Health:

e) That the Council seeks to improve Workplace Health in the context of perimenopause and menopause by:
   i) Producing and promoting a bespoke 'Rotherham Menopause Workplace Toolkit' setting out best practice, reasonable adjustments and support options for adoption by the Council and which can be shared with employers across the borough to support 'menopause positivity', creating space for open conversations and contributing to reducing the number of women affected by perimenopause and menopause who leave the workforce.
   ii) Promoting workplace 'Menopause Champions' in local organisations and businesses, starting with RMBC (Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council) as an exemplar employer

System Leadership:

f) That the Council seeks to improve System Leadership in the context of perimenopause and menopause by:
   i) Utilising the connectivity of the Rotherham Women's Health Network to support the drive for better perimenopause and menopause awareness and care across the borough.
   ii) Inviting partners who work with the Council as part of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Rotherham partners, who comprise of some of the borough's largest employers, to adopt workplace 'Menopause Champions' and to support a broader agenda of working towards making Rotherham a 'Menopause Friendly Borough'.
   iii) Developing a shared multi-agency action plan with measurable outcomes in support of that aim, including considering inclusion of improvements in menopause information, advice and support in the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

iv) Working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to explore opportunities to secure sustainable long-term funding for menopause initiatives across Rotherham Place.

2. Following submission to Cabinet, that those recommendations within the control and influence of external bodies, are shared with relevant health partners and commissioners for consideration and response.

3. That Cabinet provide a response to these recommendations within 2 months in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Appendix 2, The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Part 3, Section 1.

DEPUTY LEADER AND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

8. Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy (Pages 91 - 129)

Report from the Executive Director of Children & Young Peoples Service.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the approach of producing two strategies: A Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy, focusing specifically on the role of Ward Councillors; and a Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy setting out the overarching ambition for how the Council supports local working.

2. Approve the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy and the aspirations for Ward Councillors to play an enhanced role in bringing residents closer to council services, enabling more responsive and locally impactful delivery and note the accountability arrangements for services and enhanced focus on wellbeing and health inequalities.

9. Children and Young People's Service Schools Capital Programme Update (Pages 131 - 157)

Report from the Executive Director of Children & Young Peoples Service.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the achievements in the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2025/2026

2. Approve the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2026/2027.

10. Education Psychology Service - New model of delivery (Pages 159 - 185)

Report from the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the revised Educational Psychology Service delivery model.
2. Note the approach to implementation, governance and assurance arrangements.

FINANCE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

11. Financial Outturn 2025-26 (Pages 187 - 234)

Report from the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the revenue outturn position for 2025/26.
2. Note the required transfer from HRA reserves decreased by £4.3m following the revenue and capital outturn position.
3. Note the carry forward of the combined surplus schools balance of £2.395m in accordance with the Department for Education regulations.
4. Note the reserves position set out in paragraphs 2.15 to 2.16.
5. Note the capital outturn, funding position and programme variations as set out in paragraphs 2.17 to 2.25.

12. Treasury Management Outturn 2025-26 (Pages 235 - 254)

Report from the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators outturn position as set out in Section 2 and Appendix 1.

13. May 2026-27 Financial Monitoring Report (Pages 255 - 274)

Report from the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £4.6m.

2. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.

3. Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in section 2.17 of the report.

HOUSING

14. Council Homes Housing Delivery Programme Report - July 2026 Update (Pages 275 - 345)

Report from the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the continued progress made in delivering the Council's Housing Delivery Programme, including the delivery of 66 new homes in the period covered by this report, and the ongoing work to deliver 1,000 new Council homes by Summer 2027.

2. Approves the programme changes outlined in this report to facilitate the delivery of 1,000 new Council homes by Summer 2027, within the financial resources allocated to the programme from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

3. Approves the appropriation of 2a The Parade (see Appendix 6) into the HRA, and work to refurbish the property to the standards required for

letting as general needs accommodation.

4. Agrees to delegate authority to the Service Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to remove the service charge at Hurley Croft once work to convert to residential accommodation is ready to start.

5. Approves the proposed changes to the Housing Acquisitions Policy referenced at Paragraph 2.12. The draft policy is attached at Appendix 7.

6. Approves the removal of the Grayson Road Council Build site from the delivery pipeline.

7. Agrees to continue to receive an update on the Housing Development Programme every six months.

15. Tenant Satisfaction Measures and Regulatory Compliance - six monthly update (Pages 347 - 373)

Report from the Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the content of the report.

2. Agrees to receive a further update in six months' time.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

16. Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update (Pages 375 - 570)

Report from the Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities.

2. Note the Quarter 4 data for the Council Plan performance measures.

3. Note the updates on the Council Plan long term measures of success.

4. Note that future progress reports will be presented to Cabinet in January and July 2027.

TRANSPORT, JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

17. Town Centre Strategic Sites (Pages 571 - 684)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the completion of Stage 1 of the Council's phased approach to the redevelopment of the 5 Strategic Sites.

2. Approves the allocation of £2.42m from the Council's unallocated Local Regeneration Fund to facilitate the completion of Stage 2 of the redevelopment of the sites, the detail of which is described in section 2.1.

3. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs & Local Economy and S151 Officer to negotiate contract terms with Capital and Centric and enter into contract to complete all elements of Stage 2 development work for the 5 strategic sites.

4. Notes the presentation of a further report to Cabinet in Summer 2027 summarising the outcome of the stage 2 work and setting out final recommendations for a detailed delivery strategy that will form stage 3.

5. Approve necessary consultation and engagement activity with all stakeholders to inform and support the progression to the next stages of development.

18. Draft Street Trading Policy (Pages 685 - 728)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve consultation to determine whether the Council should adopt

Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

2. Approve consultation on the draft Street Trading Policy, as outlined in the report.

3. Note that, following consultation, a future report will be presented to Cabinet in late 2026, outlining the final recommendations with regard to the adoption of Schedule 4 and the introduction of a Borough-wide Street Trading Policy.

WASTE SERVICES, LEISURE AND GREEN SPACES

19. Primate Licensing (Pages 729 - 740)

Report from the Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet Recommend to Council that the fees in respect of Primate Licences, in accordance with the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024, be set at £199 for Licence applications and any variation or renewal applications.

20. Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (To Follow)

To receive a report detailing the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in respect of the above items that were subject to pre-decision scrutiny on 1 July 2026.

21. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Monday 14 September 2026 commencing at 10.00am in Rotherham Town Hall.

John Edwards,
Chief Executive.

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THE CABINET
8th June, 2026

Present:- Councillor Read (in the Chair); Councillors Alam, Baker-Rogers, Beresford, Cusworth, Marshall and Williams.

Also in attendance Councillor Steele (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board)

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Allen.

Officers in attendance:

John Edwards	Chief Executive
Judith Badger	Executive Director of Corporate Services
Nicola Curley	Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services
Andrew Bramidge	Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment
Chris Paddock	Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement
Phil Horsfield	Service Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Rebecca Wilson	Interim Service Director of Adult Care and Integration
Alex Hawley	Consultant in Public Health
Sam Barstow	Service Director of Community Safety and Street Scene
Polly Hamilton	Service Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism
Kevin Fisher	Service Director of Property and Facilities
Lynsey Linton	Service Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development
James Kitchen	Head of Health and Safety
Emma Hill	Head of Democratic Services
Lesley Harrison	Cabinet and Management Support Manager
Samantha Mullarkey	Governance Advisor and Clerk

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were 6 public questions:

1. Councillor Thorp asked a question regarding Minute No. 9 on the agenda (Disposal of Land at Worrygoose Lane, Whiston). He asked how the development had got planning permission if it was landlocked with no way out. He was also concerned with how the £4.5million would be spent. Councillor Thorp asked if the money could be spent in the Sitwell Ward, like had happened with a development in Swinton Ward.

The Monitoring Officer explained that the ownership of this particular piece of land was not known at the time planning permission was granted.

For the purposes of planning permission, land ownership was irrelevant. The matter before Cabinet was to address land ownership. They did not have the authority to address planning matters.

The Leader stated that the Swinton scheme was different in that it was always intended as a regeneration scheme in which the Council did a deal with the developer. However, he would be happy to have conversations with Councillor Thorp regarding the options that could be delivered to benefit residents in the local area.

Councillor Thorp accepted the invitation to hold a conversation with the Leader.

2. Andrew Claxton also asked a question in relation to Minute No. 9 on the agenda (Disposal of land at Worrygoose Lane, Whiston). He confirmed that he had already submitted a formal complaint regarding this matter. Mr. Claxton stated that the Council Planning Department granted a lucrative outline planning permission which artificially inflated the value of the ransom strip. He said he was concerned because the Council should strictly separate regulatory duties (like Planning) and the corporate financial interests of the Council. He asked if there was a conflict of interest because of this and what proof existed that the £4.5million valuation had been obtained from independent valuations.

The Monitoring Officer explained that the Planning Board Members did not have a conflict of interest when granting the planning permission as they were unaware of the land ownership matter when making this decision. In relation to ensuring safeguards were in place for when the Council was a landowner of a site seeking planning permission, it was confirmed that all matters were dealt with through the formal Committee process and in public. This was done in this circumstance. The Monitoring Officer directed Mr Claxton to the publicly available Cabinet report for the legal implications.

Mr. Claxton asked if the issues raised concerns regarding the competence of the Planning Department as they had failed to identify this issue.

The Leader explained that the Planning Department was not responsible for knowing the ownership of the land and it was not a matter considered as part of the planning application process. The Leader did agree that not knowing the ownership did not speak highly of the Council.

3. Dawn Ordish asked a question in relation to fly tipping in Eastwood and Rotherham generally. She asked why some rubbish was removed by Enviro-Crime but other bits were ignored. Ms. Ordish stated that just cleaning up at great expense each time was not the solution but something needed to be done, particularly in Eastwood, as residents did not want to live on a rubbish tip.

The Leader agreed that residents should not have to put up with fly tipping. The circumstance that existed in Eastwood was not acceptable, nor was it acceptable anywhere. He explained that an investment had been made in the 2026/27 budget for additional Civil Enforcement staff for Selective Licensing areas and it was expected that there would be a marked improvement in enforcement.

The Service Director of Community Safety and Street Scene explained that the Council was seeking to achieve consistent outcomes across the whole Borough in terms of the cleanliness of communities. There were some areas, including Eastwood, that suffered higher levels of fly tipping, and the Council needed to act accordingly. The Council did seek to take action in all possible circumstances, but it was not always possible to identify perpetrators. In terms of national data, Rotherham did perform quite well in terms of taking action.

Ms. Ordish stated that she could not believe that anywhere in the country was worse than Eastwood. As soon as the rubbish was cleared, more was back the following day. Enviro-Crime attended to put stickers on the rubbish but did not remove it. Ms. Ordish stated that St Ann's Road looked awful and could lead to racism.

The Leader reiterated that the situation in Eastwood was not acceptable. The tape being used by Enforcement Officers was part of the investigation process. Whilst the waste was easy to remove, in order to find the perpetrators, a full investigation was required. It was confirmed that if rubbish was dumped in the garden of a private property, it was the responsibility of the owner of that property to remove it.

The Leader confirmed that the Council would look into the matter if Ms. Ordish provided the details of the property. The Leader also confirmed that a Selective Licensing Board was being brought together, for residents, landlords, tenants and Council staff, to make sure everyone was working together to find solutions to matters like this.

4. Rachel Johnson expressed concerns regarding an overgrown hedge that was obstructing a public footpath and preventing wheelchair users, mobility scooter users, parents with pushchairs and other pedestrians from using the pavement safely. She stated that she had reported this to the Council but was told that people could use the footpath on the opposite side of the road instead. Ms. Johnson asked what action the Council would take and within what timescale to remove the obstruction and restore full access to the pavement.

The Leader and Service Director stated that they would need to know the specific location but stated that, on the face of it, the proposed action of using the footpath on the opposite side of the road did not seem right.

Ms. Johnson stated that she had reported several hedges and instances where footpaths were unavailable. The Council said DEFRA guidance

meant hedges could not be cut until September because of bird nesting season. Ms. Johnson did not feel this was correct.

The Leader confirmed a written response would be provided.

5. Kath Reeder asked a question regarding empty properties on Cambridge Street that had been empty for 25 years. Ms. Reeder stated that she had been trying to find out who owned the properties for 20 years but had never got an answer. She was concerned that they had been taken over by stealth and used EU funding.

The Leader stated that he did not know the particular circumstances of this matter. In general terms, if people owned buildings, they could keep them empty as long as they were kept safe. The Leader confirmed that he would get officers to look into the matter and provide a written response.

6. Mohammad Ashraf asked for the names, roles and functions of the people on the Selective Licensing Board and Stakeholder Steering Group. He also asked if all of the roles had been filled.

It was confirmed that the Terms of Reference had been drafted and were being consulted on. The roles had not yet been recruited to and there was still plenty of opportunities to get involved.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 11th May, 2026, be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that Appendix 2 to Item 10 was exempt, but the meeting remained open to the press and public throughout.

5. OUTCOME OF THE CARE QUALITY COMMISSION ASSESSMENT OF ROTHERHAM ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the achievements regarding the Council's Social Care Service in achieving a 'Good' rating. It also summarised the key strengths and opportunities for development as detailed in the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) assessment report, which was attached at Appendix 1, of how well the Council was meeting its duties under Part 1 of the Care Act (2014). The assessment took place from 14th to 17th July, 2025, with publication of the final CQC report in March 2026.

The Assessment Notice was received from the CQC on 10th February, 2025, officially beginning the assessment period. Over 300 pieces of

evidence were submitted on 28th February, 2025, covering 38 Information Return statements which formed the basis of the CQC's understanding of how the Local Authority functioned and delivered its care functions. Following this, 50 case files were submitted and a 3 hour online opening presentation took place. The on-site assessment, undertaken by a 7 person CQC team, consisted of 3 days of group and individual interviews, with the experience described as positive by staff, partners, stakeholders and people with lived experience.

The draft report was received on 3rd February, 2026, with the delay due to sickness within the CQC Assessment Team, and the final report was returned on 4th March, 2026, rating Rotherham Adult Care as 'Good' with a score of 73%, placing it joint second in Yorkshire and the Humber. The report was published on 20th March, 2026, and reflection sessions and a celebration event were taking place to acknowledge strengths and inform development actions.

Local authorities were assessed against 4 themes:

1. Working with people
2. Providing support
3. How the local authority ensures safety
4. Leadership

Paragraph 2.4 of the report highlighted key strengths for each of the 4 themes. Paragraph 2.5 highlighted areas to be considered for development for each of the 4 themes.

During the meeting, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, the Leader and Deputy Leader placed on record their thanks to all the teams involved in achieving the "good" rating and to former Councillor Roche who had led on the improvements.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the achievements of the Council's Adult Social Care Service in achieving a 'Good' rating.

2. Notes the contents of this report highlighting the areas of strength and the opportunities for development, reflected in the CQC assessment report.

3. Supports the intention to address the areas for development as detailed in the report via a development plan to be agreed by the Executive Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health.

4. Agree to receive a progress update on delivery of the development plan in June 2027.

6. RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH SELECT COMMISSIONS RECOMMENDATIONS - ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION SCRUTINY REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report which presented Cabinet's response to the Health Select Commission's recommendations following a review of Access to Contraception in Rotherham. At its meeting on 21st November, 2024, the Health Select Commission agreed to proceed with undertaking a scrutiny review into access to contraception in Rotherham, recognising the importance of supporting residents to make informed choices about their reproductive health. The findings of the Review were approved by the Health Select Commission on 22nd January, 2026, endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) at its meeting on 3rd February, 2026 and presented to Cabinet on 16th March, 2026.

The evidence gathered was structured around 5 key themes, within which the resulting recommendations were grouped. The response to these was as follows:

- Commissioning and Service Delivery – accepted (section 2.4 of the report.)
- Education, Public Awareness and Messaging – partially accepted (section 2.5.)
- Digital Access and Information – partially accepted (section 2.6.)
- Youth Access and Confidentiality – partially accepted (section 2.7.)
- Data, Monitoring and Strategic Alignment – partially accepted (section 2.8.)

Proposed responses to each review recommendation were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report and each proposed response had an associated timescale for delivery or further consideration.

Scrutiny Members were thanked for their work on this matter.

Resolved:

That the proposed Cabinet response to the Health Select Commission recommendations in respect of the Access to Contraception Review, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, be approved.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY AND STATEMENT OF INTENT

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the statutory requirement for the Council to maintain a Health and Safety Policy that set out the organisation's approach to managing health and safety. The revised Policy and Statement of Intent was presented for consideration

and recommended for approval, following extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

The report also summarised the key changes made since the Policy was last approved by Cabinet, reflecting findings from recent reviews and consultation exercises. It also set out how the Policy's key objectives would be delivered and monitored, with specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) referenced as the primary route through which the Policy would be implemented, embedded, and operationally managed across the Council. The Policy further took account of the change in Chief Executive since the Policy was last approved.

Section 2(3) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 placed a statutory duty on the Council, as an employer, to prepare, implement and maintain a written Health and Safety Policy that set out the organisation's approach to managing health and safety. The Act also required the Council to ensure that this Policy was effectively communicated to all employees, so they understood the standards, responsibilities and procedures expected of them. Compliance with this duty was essential to ensure that the Council demonstrated robust governance, promoted safe working practices and fulfilled its legal obligations in protecting employees and others affected by its activities.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE), who regulated Health and Safety Practice, state in their guidance that as a minimum the Policy should address 3 clear areas:

- A statement of intent – articulating a clear commitment from the organisation to protect the health and safety of its employees and those affected by its work activities. This should be signed by the most senior person in the organisation and reviewed regularly.

- Responsibilities and accountability for health and safety - a clear expression of officers, positions and roles that have specific responsibilities for health and safety across the organisation, including reporting lines and any relevant delegations of this responsibility.

- Arrangements for health and safety – aimed to provide details of the practical arrangements in place and how the Council will achieve its Policy aims.

The Council's Health and Safety Policy & Statement of Intent (Appendix 1) was constructed in line with the guidance and good practice recommendations made through statutory bodies such as the HSE. A detailed Standing Operating Procedures representing the Organisational Arrangements for the Management of the Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) was referenced at Appendix 2 to provide assurance on the robust nature of the Council's arrangements for Health and Safety.

The introduction of an annual Health and Safety report into Cabinet would further strengthen corporate governance and oversight.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the revised Health and Safety Policy and Statement of Intent.

2. Agree to receive an annual report relating to Health and Safety performance.

8. FINANCE UPDATE JUNE 2026

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update to Cabinet on a number of financial matters. The report was provided as an interim update for Cabinet on the Council's financial outturn 2025/26, in advance of the more detailed Financial Outturn 2025/26 report to be submitted to Cabinet in July 2026. The updates follow on from the approval of the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report at Council on 4th March, 2026, which set out the forecast outturn position for 2025/26.

The report reflected that the Council's financial outturn position for 2025/26 had improved from a projected £3.4m overspend, as reported to Cabinet as part of December's Financial Monitoring report, to an overspend of £0.3m. Headline information explaining the improvements was detailed within the report.

The report also provided updates on the Council's delivery of the Local Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme. The 2025/26 Scheme provided additional support of up to £126.12 to low income households most vulnerable to rising household costs, through reduced Council Tax bills. A total of £1.777m had been awarded across 17,558 accounts with 10,989 being reduced to nil in 2025/26.

An update on the Household Support Fund (HSF) was also provided. The Council was awarded a full year HSF grant for 2025/26 of just under £4.4m. This was to support vulnerable households with energy, food and other cost of living pressures. As of 31st March ,2026, the Council had fully spent this grant allocation, including through delivering 141,748 Free School Meals vouchers to support families across the school holidays. HSF contributed over £413k to the delivery of the Council's Energy Crisis Support Scheme, supporting 1,657 households with £250 towards their fuel bills. Care leavers were supported with £90k of HSF covering energy and food costs and over 17,558 households received extra support towards their Council Tax bills. In addition, the HSF supported Voluntary and Community Sector provision to provide 657 vulnerable households over the Christmas and New Year period and distributed crisis food parcels throughout the year.

The report provided updates on a series of proposed variations to the Council's Capital Programme that required Cabinet approval. These were:

- The Corporate ICT Capital Programme (2.4.2 of the report)
- Matrix and Century Fire Stopping Works (2.4.3)
- Rother Valley Country Park Waterfront Café and Events Space (2.4.4)
- Ash Dieback Mitigation (2.4.5)
- Property Flood Resilience (2.4.6)

During the meeting, the Leader highlighted the Property Flood Resilience work. Following Storm Babet, communities impacted by flooding were entitled to apply for property flood resilience measures through a Grant arranged by Central Government (DEFRA) but administered by Local Authorities, known as the Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Grant. Eligible flood-hit property owners would be able to apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding via the Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme. It was noted that the Grant was set up to allow residents to pay more to enhance protection beyond the minimum offered through the Grant. However, top up by the Council was recommended as this may be unaffordable in a number of cases and residents had incurred significant costs and disruption as a result of the floods to date. The works would support the overall aims of the Council's Drainage Capital Programme. It would also lead to cost avoidance for the Council in the future, for example in clean-up costs and diverted staff time.

The scheme would utilise £171,026 of unallocated budget (corporate borrowing) from the Drainage Capital Programme to fund any works which could not be covered by the grant.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the update on the revenue budget financial outturn 2025/26.

2. Note the Council's progress on the delivery of the Local Council Tax Support Top Up payment scheme.

3. Note the update to the Household Support Fund for 2025-26.

4. Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in section 2.4 of the report.

9. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT WORRYGOOSE LANE, WHISTON

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in land at Worrygoose Lane, Whiston, and to delegate authority to the Service Director Property and Facilities Services to complete all matters necessary to give effect to that disposal.

The land, which was surplus to operational requirements, was required to provide lawful access to a residential site allocated within the Council's adopted Local Plan and, therefore, represented a ransom strip, without control of which the wider site could not be developed. Following engagement with the adjoining landowners and the developer, the Council obtained independent valuation advice from the District Valuer to establish the value of the Council's land as a ransom strip. This valuation informed subsequent negotiations and provided assurance that the terms ultimately agreed reflected market value, taking account of relevant abnormal development costs.

During the course of negotiations, a number of offers were made by the developer and adjoining landowners. At one stage, all offers were withdrawn while alternative options for accessing the site were explored, resulting in a period of limited engagement with the Council. At a later stage, a change in developer and a refreshed commercial approach led to negotiations being re-opened and ultimately concluding in a final agreed offer of £4.5m for the Council's land.

An Option Agreement relating to the disposal had already been entered into and exercised. This report, therefore, sought approval to regularise the governance position and to determine whether the disposal should now proceed. The decision was in relation to the disposal of a Council-owned asset, taken in accordance with the Council's property and financial governance arrangements.

Notice under the Option Agreement was served on 21st April requiring completion by 6th May, which has since passed. While this position had contractual implications for the Council, this did not diminish or fetter Cabinet's ability to determine whether the disposal should proceed. Cabinet were being asked to consider and determine the disposal notwithstanding the contractual position. Should Cabinet resolve not to approve the disposal, the Council would be required to address and manage the resulting legal and financial implications. These were set out in Sections 5 and 6 of the report with additional information provided in Exempt Appendix 2.

The disposal enabled the realisation of value from a Council-owned asset and also enabled delivery of a wider residential development, including affordable housing, as already identified within the Council's Local Plan and wider objectives to deliver new residential and affordable residential across the Borough.

During the meeting, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the decision before Cabinet related only to the sale of the land, and not to any related planning matters.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:-

1. Approve the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in land at Worrygoose Lane, Whiston, as per the attached plan in Appendix 1.

2. Delegate authority to the Service Director Property and Facilities Services to carry out and complete all necessary and related activities to give effect to the disposal, including completion of legal documentation and receipt of all monies due to the Council, net of any fees or charges due.

10. NEW APPLICATION FOR BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF FOR ROTHERHAM OPEN ARTS RENAISSANCE

Consideration was given to the report which presented the application for the award of Discretionary Business Rates Relief for Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance in accordance with the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy.

Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance, Hope Centre, Grove Road, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S60 2ER, was a registered Community Interest Company (CIC), not-for-profit organisation which was registered on Companies House as a private company limited by guarantee without share capital. The organisation was dedicated to supporting creative practices and promoting arts in Rotherham. The organisation provided free and low-cost access to creative spaces for local artists and creatives working with people of all ages and backgrounds. They aimed to remove financial and social barriers to participation and ensure the activities and studios were welcoming, inclusive and accessible to all.

The organisation had taken on an additional property to enable them to meet the local demand. This was allowing them to extend their existing work, providing more opportunities for local creatives and community groups with the provision of additional studio space, a pottery studio and a small gallery space for local artists to share their work with the community.

Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance had benefitted from an award of discretionary rate relief on their long-term property at Westgate Chambers, Westgate since 2011. They were now seeking additional support, backdated to 2025/26 for the property they occupied from 1st May, 2025, which had recently been added to the rating list by the Valuation Office.

The cost to RMBC for the 2025/26 year would be £3,815.03 and £4,115.02 for 2026/27.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approve the application for Discretionary Business Rates Relief for Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance in accordance with the details set out in Section 6 to this report for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.

11. RENTERS RIGHTS ACT POLICY CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval to consult on a Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy to sit alongside the Council's General Enforcement Policy and a Civil Penalty Calculation Mechanism, for delivering Civil penalties under the Renters' Rights Act 2025 and other relevant legislation. This was necessary to comply with national legislation and guidance, delivering a transparent process for applying Civil Penalties across a range of housing legislation. It offered a consistent approach with other local authorities in the region and provided an option to tailor the financial impact of the legislation to the local housing market.

The Renters' Rights Act 2025 ["the Act"], and associated Statutory Guidance, introduced significant changes to Local Housing Authority enforcement powers, including expanded civil penalties, statutory "starting points" for financial penalties, and a range of new investigatory powers. The Act had not been included within the 'Legislative and Regulatory Reform (Regulatory Functions) Order 2007' and, therefore, was outside of the scope of the Regulator's Code and the principles of good regulation which were outlined within the Council's General Enforcement Policy.

The proposed Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy, along with the Civil Penalty Calculation Mechanism, consolidated housing enforcement tools, including those outside the national Regulator's Code, ensuring consistency, proportionality, and compliance with the legislation which would not disproportionally impact the local private rented sector.

As a result of the new legislation and guidance, there were 6 areas which required inclusion or amendment in relation to the Council's Policy. These were all addressed in the draft Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy, attached as Appendix 1, and the Civil Financial Penalty Calculation Mechanism, attached as Appendix 2 and 3 respectively. These were:

- New offences and powers under the Renters' Rights Act 2025.
- Updated Civil Penalty calculation methodologies.
- Statutory "starting points" for penalty calculations.
- The ACEHO National Model Enforcement Framework.
- Local economic conditions impacting penalty viability.
- Increases in the level of Rent Repayment Orders.

It was proposed that the consultation would commence in late June 2026 and run for 6 weeks. It would be designed to reach residents, businesses, neighbourhood groups, local charities, faith groups, landlord groups, tenants, owner occupiers and visitors, focused on those impacted by the private rented sector. The approach would concentrate on online and email engagement, utilising the corporate consultation mechanism where possible. Paper-based opportunities would be included. It was expected that the response to the consultation, and the final proposed Policy, would be presented to Cabinet in November 2026 after full consideration of the responses.

The report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board who advised that the recommendations be supported. OSMB requested that the consultation period be extended into September. During the meeting, the Chair of OSMB requested that the consultation be extended for a further 4 weeks. Cabinet agreed to extend the consultation by 2 weeks. This reflected the concerns raised by OSMB but meant that the original timeframe could still be adhered to.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve consultation on the draft:

    a. Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy, derived from the Association of Chief Environmental Health Officers (ACEHO) National Model Enforcement Policy; and

    b. Civil Penalty Calculation Mechanism, including local market adjustment.

2. Note that a future report with the outcome of the consultation and revised policy documents will be presented to Cabinet in November 2026.

3. Agree that the consultation run for a period of 8 weeks.

12. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Consideration was given to the report which presented the nominations received for appointments to outside bodies. Outside bodies were external organisations which had requested that the Council appoint a representative to them. Outside bodies had separate governance structures to the Council. Appointments to outside bodies could be an important mechanism for community leadership, partnership and joint working and knowledge and information sharing.

The Council's Constitution stated that Cabinet was responsible for the appointments to Outside Bodies. This report presented the nominations received and recommended the appointment of the nominees to the various organisations and partnerships. Details of the appointments were attached in Appendix 1 to the report.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Agree that Councillors be appointed to serve on outside bodies, as detailed on the schedule in Appendix 1.

2. Agree that any in year changes are delegated to the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Leader of the Council.

13. LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report which provided an overview of the pre-consultation draft of the South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Appendix 1), outlined the governance and consultation timetable, and sought Cabinet support for the Council's participation in the formal consultation process.

The South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy was being prepared by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), which was the designated Responsible Authority under the Environment Act 2021, working collaboratively with Rotherham, Sheffield, Barnsley and Doncaster local authorities and the Peak District National Park Authority as Supporting Authorities. The South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (SYLNRS) sought to identify existing valuable habitats, priority species, priorities for nature recovery, and opportunities for enhancing biodiversity across the sub-region. The Strategy had been developed collaboratively with the 4 South Yorkshire Local Authorities and the Peak District National Park Authority, alongside voluntary and public sector partners.

The SYLNRS provided a strategic evidence base for nature recovery. While it did not place legal obligations on landowners, it would support funding bids, inform wider policy, and help attract public, voluntary and

private sector investment into South Yorkshire's green environment. Local planning authorities, in preparing new local plans and in development management decision-taking, would have regard to the LNRS and reflect the requirements of the LNRS within the preparation of a new Local Plan.

The draft Strategy was supported by a series of technical annexes (Annexes A–E), which provided the underlying evidence base, mapping and methodological detail that informed the preparation of the Strategy.

The Strategy was scrutinised by the Improving Places Select Commission who advised that the recommendations be support. They made an additional recommendation in relation to additional habitat banks which was accepted by Cabinet.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the pre-consultation draft of the South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, including the proposed governance and consultation arrangements led by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Waste Services, Leisure and Green Spaces, to:

    a. agree and submit the Council's final consultation response to SYMCA on the draft South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, as set out in paragraph 3.1.

    b. Endorse the final version of the South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy in autumn 2026, following the public consultation process and prior to final sign-off by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

3. Agree that, as part of the Council's wider work on biodiversity net gain, it be requested that the Service give consideration to prioritising the development of additional habitat banks within the Borough, to ensure that these are established in advance of any large-scale infrastructure projects which could create an urgent requirement to compensate for habitat loss.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Consideration was given to the circulated report, the contents of which were included as part of the relevant items and the details included accordingly.

15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Cabinet be held on 6th July, 2026, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title
Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy 2027-2032

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)
Rebecca Wilson, acting Service Director, Adult Care and Integration
Rebecca.wilson@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides an update on the Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy (2024–2027). It also seeks formal approval to undertake a 90-day public consultation to inform the development of the new Adult Social Care Strategy, setting out how the consultation will be undertaken and providing an overview of the early engagement activity already completed. This timeline reflects that the existing strategy runs until 2027 and that development of the new strategy needs to begin now to ensure there is no gap without a strategy in place.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the progress update in relation to the current Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy 2024-2027.

2. Approve a formal consultation period to inform development of a Refreshed Adult Social Care Strategy 2027-2032.

3. Note that the outcomes of the consultation and the final Strategy will be presented to Cabinet in March 2027.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy 2024-2027
Appendix 2 Involvement Framework
Appendix 3 Part A – Equality Analysis Screening
Appendix 4 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers
Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy 2024-2027

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy 2027-2032

1. Background

1.1 After formal consultation with Rotherham residents during Summer 2023, the Rotherham Adult Social Care (ASC) Strategy 2024–2027 was launched in early 2024. Those who took part in the consultation were asked to determine areas for improvement, which were then ranked from most important to least important based on the number of votes received. This informed the action plan by year, with the highest-priority areas commencing in 2024.

1.2 A strategy tracker has been in place throughout the programme to monitor progress against key priorities. From a governance perspective, this is reviewed on a monthly basis by the ASC Regulatory Assurance Board, which was established to monitor preparedness for assessment by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), ensuring that actions are effectively progressed while supporting ongoing compliance and service development. Progress on the strategy is monitored here because many of the actions in the CQC Master Work Programme feed into the broader strategic objectives.

1.3 Progress on the strategy is included as part of the briefing to the Health Select Commission. Furthermore, an early engagement session with 5 members of the Health Select Commission took place to capture their views at the earliest stage as well as provide a progress update on the current strategy.

1.4 An update on progress of the current strategy was provided to the ASC Senior Management Team last year. The following update summarises the progress made to date.

1.5 Furthermore, the current ASC Strategy is due to come to the end of its agreed timeframe in 2027. In order to ensure a new strategy is developed, consulted on and in place to succeed it, the process of reviewing, refreshing and co-producing the next strategy is proposed to begin now.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The following sections provide a summary of progress to date on delivery of the work programme priorities within the ASC Strategy 2024-2027.

2.2 <u>2024 Priorities</u>

2.3 Provide information and advice to support making informed choices.

2.4 This included reviewing and redesigning public information for young people preparing for adulthood, vulnerable adults and unpaid carers, as well as redesigning the adult social care webpages on the Rotherham Council website and refreshing information available on direct payments. The above actions have been achieved meaning that the priority is complete.

2.5 Prevent, reduce or delay a person’s care needs.

2.6 The Supporting Independence team has been implemented, bringing together Carers Link officers, Sensory Workers, and Community Connectors to provide early intervention and help people maintain their independence. Investment in prevention within the voluntary and community sector has been completed, with £100,000 provided to Voluntary Action Rotherham to operate a Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Programme to support VCS (Voluntary and Community Sector) groups to increase the health and wellbeing of vulnerable adults and combat social isolation. A new Out of Hours model was launched in February 2025, delivering a more responsive service outside of core working hours. The above actions have been achieved meaning that the priority is complete.

2.7 Strengthen the voice of the person.

2.8 Key actions to strengthen voice, engagement, and co-production are complete. The Adult Social Care Co-Production Board has been operating since April 2024, with a full-year review identifying ways to further improve resident involvement. Safeguarding has been strengthened through the introduction of a Voice Subgroup, ensuring local people's issues are heard at board level, with plans to recruit a person with lived experience in a substantive 'expert by experience' role. Support for unpaid carers has been enhanced through a new multi-agency strategic group, alongside co-production of the All-Age Carers Strategy 2026-2031. The above actions have been achieved meaning that the priority is complete.

2.9 Adopt new ways of meeting people's needs.

2.10 Key actions are all in progress. In terms of the ASC portal this has been delayed due to technicalities needing resolution by the system provider, however work is now progressing. In terms of self-triage, work has been completed to update and refresh the ASC webpages to allow self-triage. Self-assessment will be possible once the portal has gone live. In terms of assistive technology, the upgrade of Rothercare's analogue telecare units has been successfully completed ahead of the national digital switchover deadline. Work is underway to modernise the Rothercare Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC), transitioning telephony infrastructure from analogue to digital to ensure service resilience and future compliance. The newly commissioned delivery partner is embedding its role. including actively undertaking market scanning and innovation assessment, identifying emerging technologies and solutions to enhance service delivery, improve outcomes, and ensure the Council remains at the forefront of Assistive Technology provision. A comprehensive review of standalone equipment processes is in progress. This work will establish a clear baseline of current operational performance and inform service improvements. Outputs from this work will directly shape the development of standalone equipment and underpin a broader, integrated Assistive Technology Strategy aligned to future demand, digital transformation priorities, and prevention-focused care models.

2.11 2025 Priorities

2.12 Support young people with care and support needs to prepare for adulthood.

2.13 All planned actions to support improved transitions and opportunities for young people are complete. The new transitions assessment, including Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) outcomes, is fully operational. The voice of young people is embedded through operational transitions feedback and lessons-learnt closure forms. Employment support has been strengthened through the launch of Connect to Work, expanding supported employment capacity for neurodiverse young people and delivering positive employment, training, and education outcomes, alongside the introduction of supported internships for under-25s. The above actions have been achieved meaning that the priority is complete.

2.14 Create more opportunities to work with partners to deliver positive outcomes for people.

2.15 Partnership working has been strengthened to deliver better outcomes for people across health and social care. The Hospital Discharge Transfer of Care Hub (TOCH) has been fully implemented following pathway redesign, with integrated teams co-located and wider system support secured. A collaborative mental health model for Adult Social Care has been embedded, with community mental health hubs working proactively alongside GPs, community providers and RDaSH (Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust). Broader collaborative delivery continues through joint health and social care roles, coordinated system responses to pressures, improved alternatives to emergency care, ongoing reviews of intermediate care and equipment services, and sustained cross-system support for care homes. The above actions have been achieved meaning that the priority is complete.

2.16 2026 Priorities

2.17 Provide more opportunities for care and support closer to home.

2.18 Further investment is being made to develop local accommodation with appropriate support services. This includes Castle View Day Centre, a purpose-built and fully accessible facility for adults with complex needs, featuring calming spaces and outdoor sensory areas. Specialist supported living is also being expanded so that people with care and support needs can have their own front door with the right support in place. In addition, new Council homes are being developed to help meet local demand for affordable housing.

2.19 Ensure full engagement with people about the services they want to access is being ensured and used to shape the development of local care services. A Home Care survey is in place and is actively informing service delivery, while voice, experience, and outcomes are fully embedded throughout the commissioning cycle. This action is partially complete with further work ongoing throughout 2026/2027.

2.20 Better Care Fund (BCF) planning guidance for 2026/27 has been issued, and planning for 2026/27 has commenced, with progress to be reported through the BCF governance structure. This will increase the range of services delivered collaboratively with health partners. This priority is partially complete with further work ongoing throughout 2026/2027.

2.21 Work with the local care market to provide flexible services that meet people's needs.

2.22 This work includes seeking new opportunities to deliver services in partnership with the voluntary and community sector, reviewing and updating the Rotherham Compact, assessing the £100k investment and the impact of grants on Voluntary and Community Sector sustainability, and collaborating with Voluntary Action Rotherham (VAR) to support the alcohol and drugs recovery community using Drug and Alcohol Treatment, Recovery and Improvement Grant funding.

2.23 Services are being designed and delivered to reflect the diverse needs of local communities. There is ongoing co-production involving people who use services supported by the ASC Co-Production Lead. There is continued work through the Community Opportunities Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) which provides opportunities for small to medium enterprises to work with the council to provide opportunities for people with an assessed need to improve their independence, expand their social networks and gain skills to increase their employability. There is also joint work with Children and Young People's Services to scope the Personal Assistant (PA) market. This work is reported through to the Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Board and aims to put in place a joint approach to further develop the PA market and also to support families to recruit skilled and experienced PAs.

2.24 The number of providers rated good or outstanding is being increased through the implementation and embedding of the Provider Assessment and Market Management Solution (PAMMS) which is an online assessment and quality assurance tool used by the Council to monitor, evaluate, and improve the quality of adult social care services across the borough. Quarterly performance reports are received by both the Senior Management Team and Directorate Leadership Team.

2.25 Adult Social Care have produced an Involvement Framework (see appendix 2) that sets out ambitions and intentions for how the Council will work alongside the public and people with lived experience of social care to improve services. This has been approved and will be published imminently. This Involvement Framework is being used to drive the co-production of the next adult social care strategy, aiming to increase the influence of the voice of lived experience and the community from the earliest stages. This was done through community engagement sessions and consistent collaboration with the Adult Social Care co-production Board Rotherham Adult Social Care Always Listening (RASCAL). The early engagement aims to gain an understanding of which service areas may need the most focus, in the opinion of those being engaged with. From this feedback the themes can be

gathered, and it can be ensured that the public consultation reflects these areas.

2.26 Paragraph 4.2 of the report provides information regarding early engagement sessions in relation to the 2027-2032 Strategy.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 **Option 1:**– Cabinet approves the decision for a 90-day public consultation to inform a new Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy for 2027 onwards. **(Recommended)**

3.2 **Option 2:** Continue with the Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy 2024-2027. **(Not recommended)**

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Between January and March 2026, a working group was established with staff representation from all service areas who have had input throughout this process and will continue to do so up to publication. Alongside this, the Council have been consistently engaging with the Adult Social Care Co-production Board, RASCAL. Those two groups helped to identify and connect with lived-experience groups across each service area. From April to June 2026, early engagement activity was undertaken, and is still being undertaken, to capture initial views and insights to inform and shape the public consultation. This has been done so that from the earliest stages, the contents and direction of the strategy are influenced by the voices and priorities of the community and lived experience as well as being grounded in the experience of staff in both leadership and practitioner positions. This will provide the best opportunity to create a strategy that best meets expectations and is achievable.

4.2 The list of early engagement sessions is below:

Groups	Dates (2026)
Members of RASCAL	1st April
Attendees at Rotherham Recovery Forum	9th April
People who access services at Wellgate Court	17th April
Members of the Health Select Commission	28th April
Members of the Faith Leaders Group	7th May
Residents at Bakersfield Court	12th May

Staff from Voluntary Action Rotherham and multiple other VCSE organisations (promoted through VAR's network)	14th May
People with lived experience of mental health support provided by RAW People (formerly S62)	29th May
ASC Frontline Staff/ Practitioner Workshop	20th May
Carers on Shared Lives	1st June
ASC Strategy Working Group	2nd June

4.3 Findings from engagement sessions to date have been grouped into six key themes, listed below and briefly described. Hearing directly from people with lived experience will help shape the consultation, ensuring it focuses on the issues and priorities that matter most to those who may access adult social care. It will be important that in the communication around the consultation, the approach taken is described, as it will demonstrate relationship building and how the Council are listening to the community.

4.4 **Clearer communication about ASC (what it is and what it offers)**
During engagement sessions, people with and without lived experience described a consistent lack of understanding in the role of ASC, what support is available or 'who' it is for (as some people do not see it as something that is there for them). There is a need to improve how ASC communicates with the public, partners, and communities—not just individuals in the system.

4.5 **Joined-up services (especially for complex needs)**
During engagement, some people with lived experience and those who are part of community or advocacy services reported that in their experience, services feel fragmented, with people—particularly those with multiple/complex needs—being "passed around" between teams. Better coordination and shared responsibility are needed.

4.6 **Person-centred care & listening to lived experience**
During the engagement sessions, there was clear recognition that ASC has made a positive start in listening to people with lived experience. There was also clear appetite and ambition to build on this further. People want to feel consistently heard, involved in decisions about their care, and able to shape services in a meaningful, ongoing way—not just at key consultation points.

4.7 **Faster access & earlier support**
For some people engaged with, there was a perception and a feeling that too often, delays and high thresholds mean people often only get help at crisis point, when their situation is harder to improve. This led people to suggest that more timely and preventative support is needed, alongside appropriate signposting and referrals to partners when ASC is not the correct source of support.

4.8 **Community presence, relationships & prevention**
Across multiple engagement sessions a strong appetite for more community-based support—local hubs, activities, and visible ASC presence—focused on building relationships and preventing escalation, was heard. There was praise for services that already work in this way and suggestions that they could be used as models for other services.

4.9 Subject to Cabinet approval on 6 July 2026, a 90-day public consultation will be conducted between August and October 2026. From November 2026 to March 2027, the Strategy will be developed and progressed through the relevant governance and approval processes, with a final Cabinet decision on the strategy scheduled for 15 March 2027.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1

August – October 2026	Conduct 90-day public consultation
November 2026	Development of strategy
9th December 2026	Adult Social Care Senior Management Team Meeting for agreement to progress to the next stage
12th January 2027	Directorate Leadership Team Meeting for agreement to progress to the next stage
26th January 2027	Strategic Leadership Team Meeting for agreement to progress to Cabinet
15th March 2027	Cabinet for approval

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no immediate financial implications. As the work of Adult Social Care develops to align with the strategy these will need to be assessed to ensure they are contained within available resources.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The Care Act 2014 places a number of Statutory duties upon the Local Authority, including the following:

- promote wellbeing;
- preventing, reducing or delaying needs for care and support;
- establish and maintain information and advice services relating to care and support for all people in its area, including ensuring information is accessible;
- assess adults' eligible needs for care and support, and carers' needs for support and ensure that identified eligible needs are met;

- safeguard adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect, and
- shape the market for care and support, ensuring to facilitate a diverse, sustainable high-quality market for their whole local population.

7.2 The implementation of an Adult Social Care Strategy is an important tool in supporting the Local Authority to meet its Statutory duties. This report provides an update in relation to the existing strategy and also seeks approval to commence consultation in relation to a new strategy to commence in 2027. To do nothing in terms of planning for a new strategy as the existing one comes to an end would likely leave the Local Authority open to legal challenge; the implementation of a strategy means that the Local Authority is able to set priorities and ensure compliance with duties under the Care Act, specifically regarding information and advice.

7.3 The Care and Support Statutory Guidance states that the development of plans and strategies should involve the following as a minimum: -

- all relevant stakeholders;
- engagement with people, carers and family members, to understand what is working and not working for them, their preferences and how their information, advice and advocacy needs can best be met;
- adopting a ‘co-production’ approach to their plan, involving user groups and people themselves, other appropriate statutory, commercial and voluntary sector service providers, and make public the plan once finalised; and
- co-ordination with other statutory bodies with an interest in care and support, including local CCGs, Health and Wellbeing Boards, local Healthwatch and neighbouring local authorities

7.4 In addition to the above the Statutory Guidance also states that in terms of commissioning and market shaping it is important that local authorities develop evidence-based local strategies for how they exercise and comply with this duty. Paragraph 4.52 states ‘Local authorities should have in place published strategies that include plans that show how their legislative duties, corporate plans, analysis of local needs and requirements (integrated with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy), thorough engagement with people, carers and families, market and supply analysis, market structuring and interventions, resource allocations and procurement and contract management activities translate (now and in future) into appropriate high quality services that deliver identified outcomes for the people in their area and address any identified gaps’.

7.5 The consultation plan demonstrates compliance with the above stated principles within the Care and Support Statutory Guidance.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from the Rotherham Adult Social Care Strategy however any subsequent workforce implications arising from this will follow due Human Resources processes.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The strategy is inclusive of young people preparing for adulthood and will ensure that young people transitioning from Children's and Young People's Services to Adult Social care can:

- grow up prepared for the future;
- Have improved health and wellbeing;
- Be able to exercise control over the support they receive. ;
- Be able to receive support locally from a range of services that everyone values;
- For all young people to have an opportunity to have their own 'front door', and
- Ensure the right support is in place at the right time.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The proposals in this report support the Council to comply with legal obligations encompassed in the:

- Human Rights Act (1998), to treat everyone equally with fairness, dignity and respect with a focus on those who are disadvantaged as a result of disability, and
- Equality Act (2010) to legally protect people from discrimination in wider society.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment form has been completed (Appendix 5).

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Strategy has been designed to complement wider strategic plans for Rotherham including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Rotherham Health and Care Plan. This approach ensures opportunities to align and harness existing strategic approaches through a system-wide partnership response.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Whilst the vision and strategy do not present any risks, there are risks associated with not having a strategy.

13.2 Clearly articulated strategic intentions for adult social care will support the service in managing risks associated with budgetary pressures, increasing

demand for services and compliance with the new legislative and statutory frameworks.

13.3 Risk: There is a risk that the consultation does not reach all people with a lived experience, families, and unpaid carers, and their experiences are not represented.

13.4 Mitigation: A robust communications plan has been developed to reach people with lived experience of Adult Social Care in Rotherham. Additionally, there will be proactive engagement with demographic groups that are highly represented in Rotherham and with groups that are 'seldom heard' or who less frequently engage with adult social care, so that the outcome of the consultation can be as representative as possible. .

13.5 Risk: There is a risk that people who attended early engagement sessions and/or respond to the consultation do not see their views or experiences incorporated into the strategy.

13.6 Mitigation: Throughout the process of developing the strategy, including the early engagement sessions, the consultation and when the strategy is published, communication will make clear that every effort has been made to incorporate balanced representation of all the views and opinions heard. Additionally, feedback has been grouped into themes and whilst all feedback is acknowledged, there is a balance between what is achievable and feedback that has been heard most consistently.

13.7 Risk: There is a risk that residents and people who access Adult Social Care will not be aware of the strategy, how it was created with the community and the impact it will have on services.

13.8 Mitigation: The mitigation against this risk is continuous engagement and maintaining relationships that have been built throughout the process of developing the strategy. Groups engaged with have been given options for how they would like to be informed and continue to engage with the work, including yearly/ midpoint reviews of the strategy.

14. Accountable Officers

Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
ian.spicer@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	19/06/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	10/06/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	03/06/26

Report Author: Rebecca Wilson, Acting Service Director, Adult Care and Integration rebecca.wilson@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

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ROTHERHAM ADULT SOCIAL CARE STRATEGY
2024 – 2027
People are safe, healthy and live well

www.rotherham.gov.uk

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

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OUR STRATEGY

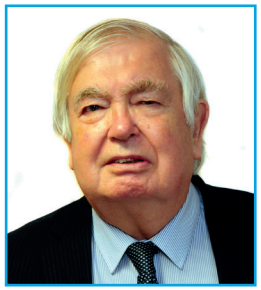
This strategy sets out our vision for how we intend to make a real difference to the lives of local residents. We have designed the strategy through consultation with people who have care and support needs, unpaid carers, wider residents and partners.

The strategy focuses on ensuring people are safe, healthy and can live well, within their local communities.

It outlines our vision, values and priorities for the next three years with an emphasis on strength-based approaches, enabling people to remain at home for as long as possible and ensuring people with care and support needs are empowered during their adult social care journey.

This strategy has also been designed to complement wider strategic plans for Rotherham including our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Rotherham Health and Care Plan, our Learning Disability, Autism and Borough that Cares Strategies, as well as national and regional policy approaches.

Ultimately, our strategy focuses on enabling people to live their best lives and to reach their full potential.



Councillor David Roche
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Ian Spicer
Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

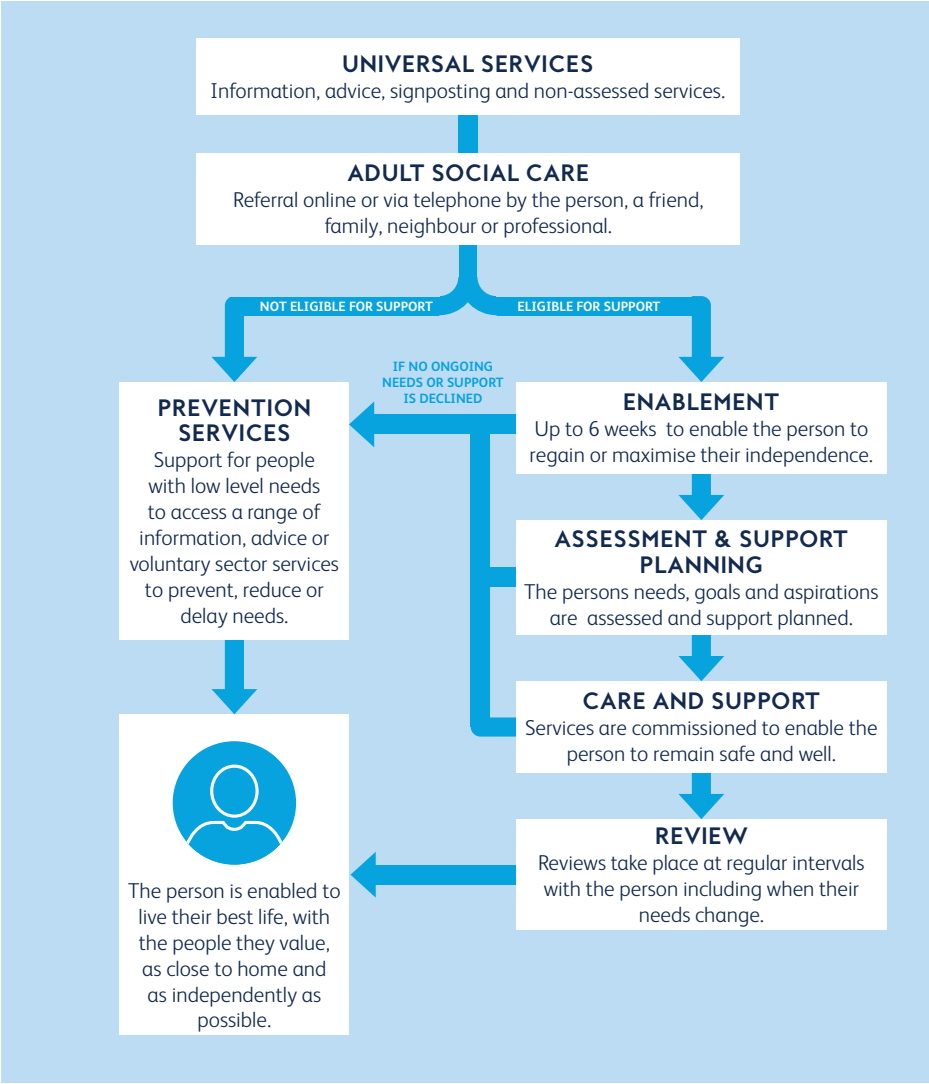
OUR VISION AND VALUES

'Enable every resident with care and support needs to live their best lives, with the people they value, close to home and with access to the right support at the right time'

Adult social care will achieve the vision by ensuring all residents have:

- Access to the right information, at the right time, to help them make informed choices about their care and support needs.
- Access to support and services tailored to them, which are focused on the persons strengths, abilities and aspirations.
- Access to local communities and are enabled to maintain relationships which are the most important to them.
- Access to the right services, at the right time, which enables them to live healthier lives for longer and maximises their independence.

Adult Social Care Pathway



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ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Basic Principles

Our adult social care pathway ensures we can:

- Prevent, reduce or delay the need for more intensive or long term provision by helping the person as early as possible through strengths-based practice.
- Meet eligibility for adult social care by targeting our resources at those people with the most complex or challenging needs.
- Safeguard people from abuse or neglect and ensure others can recognise the signs.
- Provide equal access to services for both people with care and support needs and unpaid carers.
- Provide services which are of a high quality and ensure these services are monitored through a quality assurance process.

Strengths-Based Practices

Being 'strengths-based' means focusing on what people and communities have and how they can work together. This involves drawing on people's skills, knowledge and experience to improve things instead of looking at what a person needs or lacks.

Adopting a strengths-based approach leads to better care and support and increased opportunities for the person to achieve their goals and outcomes.

Person-Centred Approach

Person centred care is not provided by using a 'one size fit all approach' and making people fit into services. It is about providing services which are tailored to meeting the person's needs.

Using a person-centred approach means that throughout a person's adult social care journey, the person makes the decisions and remains in control of what happens and sets the goals, aspirations and outcomes they want to be achieved.

Market Shaping

We are committed to ensuring that everyone can live independently, safely, and healthily in their community for as long as possible. To do this, we work with local care providers to shape and deliver services which promote high-quality, person-centred care and support focussed on meeting individual's goals and aspirations.

Our **Market Position Statement for Adult Social Care** explains how we will develop the care sector.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We want to empower everyone to lead fulfilling lives, whilst also keeping them safe from harm and achieving a good quality of life. Adult social care are committed to achieving equality for all and a cohesive society built on tolerance and mutual respect. Our approach is to tackle inequalities by ensuring services reflect the diverse needs of individuals and our local communities.

OUR PURPOSE

Adult social care works with people with care and support needs, their families, friends and unpaid carers to enable them to live independently, safe and well. This includes people who are frail, have disabilities, are neurodiverse or experience mental ill health, provide unpaid care, as well as young people preparing for adulthood.

Our approach focuses on 'doing with' and not 'doing to' or 'doing for' people, utilising our resources in the most effective way for people to achieve their personal outcomes. Adopting a person-centred approach acknowledges that fulfilment and independence mean different things to different people, and therefore our interventions need to be proportionate, with a clear understanding of the person, their needs and the outcomes they want to achieve.

Adult social care is focussed on protecting people from abuse or neglect and educating others to recognise the signs and that they know how to report any safeguarding concerns.

By doing this we will support people to improve their mental wellbeing, develop resilience and ensure choice and control which helps them to stay as independent and safe as possible within their local community.

Our themes for delivering adult social care are:

- Wellbeing and Independence: enabling people to live their best life.
- Informed Choices: having the right information at the right time.
- Connected to People: support to maintain relationships with people that matter the most to them.
- My Support, My Way: focused on strengths, abilities and cultural needs of the person.

Types of support can include access to preventative services including assistive technology, aids and adaptations, provision of information and advice, targeted support for unpaid carers, short-term intensive support through our enablement services or more long-term support such as home care, access to day opportunities or care provided in care and nursing homes.

Adult social care support is either 'short term' or 'long term'. Short term support means it is time limited with the intention of helping the person to regain independence and reduce or eliminate the need for longer term support. Long term services are provided on an ongoing basis and may include less intense services within the person's local community or more intensive support such as that in a care home.

Adult social care can arrange for both short and long term support where the person needs help and they meet the eligibility criteria for services.

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OUR PRIORITIES

Over the next three years, adult social care will focus on delivering the following priorities to improve outcomes for people with care and support needs, unpaid carers and local residents.

2024	**Provide information and advice to support making informed choices** • Review and redesign our public information for young people preparing for adulthood, vulnerable adults and unpaid carers. • Redesign the adult social care web pages. • Provide a range of information on direct payments and being a responsible employer.
	Prevent, reduce or delay a person's care needs • Implement a new prevention service which will support both vulnerable adults and young people preparing for adulthood. • Invest in prevention services in the voluntary sector. • Review and expand our out of hours support offer for people in crisis.
	Strengthen the voice of the person • Implement a co-production board and feedback mechanisms to understand how well we are meeting people's needs. • Ensure the voice of unpaid carers is heard, listened to and acted on. • Ensure the voice of the person is central to safeguarding adults.
	Adopt new ways of meeting people's needs • Implement an online adult social care portal for people who wish to self-assess. • Enable people to self-triage and self-assess their needs. • Invest in new assistive technologies (AT) and digital solutions supported by an AT strategy.
2025	**Support young people with care and support needs to prepare for adulthood** • Implement a new transitions assessment process with partners. • Ensure the voice of the young person is heard, listened to and respected. • Improve employment opportunities for young people with care and support needs.
	Create more opportunities to work with partners to deliver positive outcomes for people • Implement a new hospital discharge 'Transfer of Care Hub' which improves outcomes for residents. • Implement a redesigned mental health model for social care and work with partners to adopt collaborative community mental health hubs. • Seek further opportunities to deliver services collaboratively.
2026	**Provide more opportunities for care and support closer to home** • Further invest and develop local accommodation with support services. • Ensure full engagement with people on the types of services they want to access which shapes the development of local care services. • Increase the range of services delivered collaboratively with health partners.
	Work with the local care market to provide flexible services that meet people's needs • Seek new opportunities to deliver services with the voluntary sector. • Design and deliver appropriate services which reflect the diverse needs of our communities. • Increase the number of providers rated good or outstanding.

VOICE OF THE RESIDENT

Safeguarding Adults

Safeguarding is about protecting people from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognise the signs and how they can report their concerns. To keep our residents safe we know there are lots of actions we currently do and more we can do. Amongst our aims are improving mental health, developing resilience and giving choice and control to support people stay as safe as possible.

Adult social care have a Safeguarding Adult Pathway to protect vulnerable residents at risk of harm or abuse. Our Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) is committed to taking a partnership approach to help protect adults at risk of or experiencing neglect, harm or abuse.

We make safeguarding personal by listening to, acting upon and respecting the voice and views of the person. This supports an improved quality of life, wellbeing and safety as the person is empowered to lead and direct decisions.

Our approach also includes working with partners and residents to educate them to recognise the signs of abuse and neglect including how they can report any safeguarding concerns. If you are worried about an adult, you can report a concern on our website or call 01709 822330.

Have Your Say

To achieve the best outcomes for people, adult social care recognise the importance of putting the person at the heart of everything we do. That means involving people in the things that matter to them and making sure we design our services based on the voices of people who need our support.

If you would like to get involved in having your say on Adult Social Care then why not join our Co-Production Board. The Board co-produces, co-designs and co-evaluates our care services, policies and practices to ensure the voice of the person is central to their design.

How much you want to get involved is your choice, so if you would like to get involved to shape our future services, please get in touch on our web pages.

Find out More

Visit our adult social care website to find out more about adult social care **www.rotherham.gov.uk/adult-social-care** including case studies about the positive impact the service has made for residents.

You can also review our achievements and outcomes for the last 12 months by taking a look at 'How did we do?' our Local Account that is published each year.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Safeguarding (Customer Contact Team) – **adults** – 01709 822330
Safeguarding (M.A.S.H Team) – **children** – 01709 336080
Mental Health Crisis Team – 0800 652 9571
RDASH Switchboard – 03000 213000

Housing Services – 01709 336009
Reablement Services – 01709 336096
Shared Lives – 01709 334948
Supported Employment – 01709 249600

Age UK Rotherham – 01709 835214
Citizen's Advice Bureau – 0808 278 7911

Your own important numbers

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Ref: 87540 / NOVEMBER 2023

ROTHERHAM ADULT SOCIAL CARE INVOLVEMENT FRAMEWORK

Creating a culture of co-production

www.rotherham.gov.uk

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

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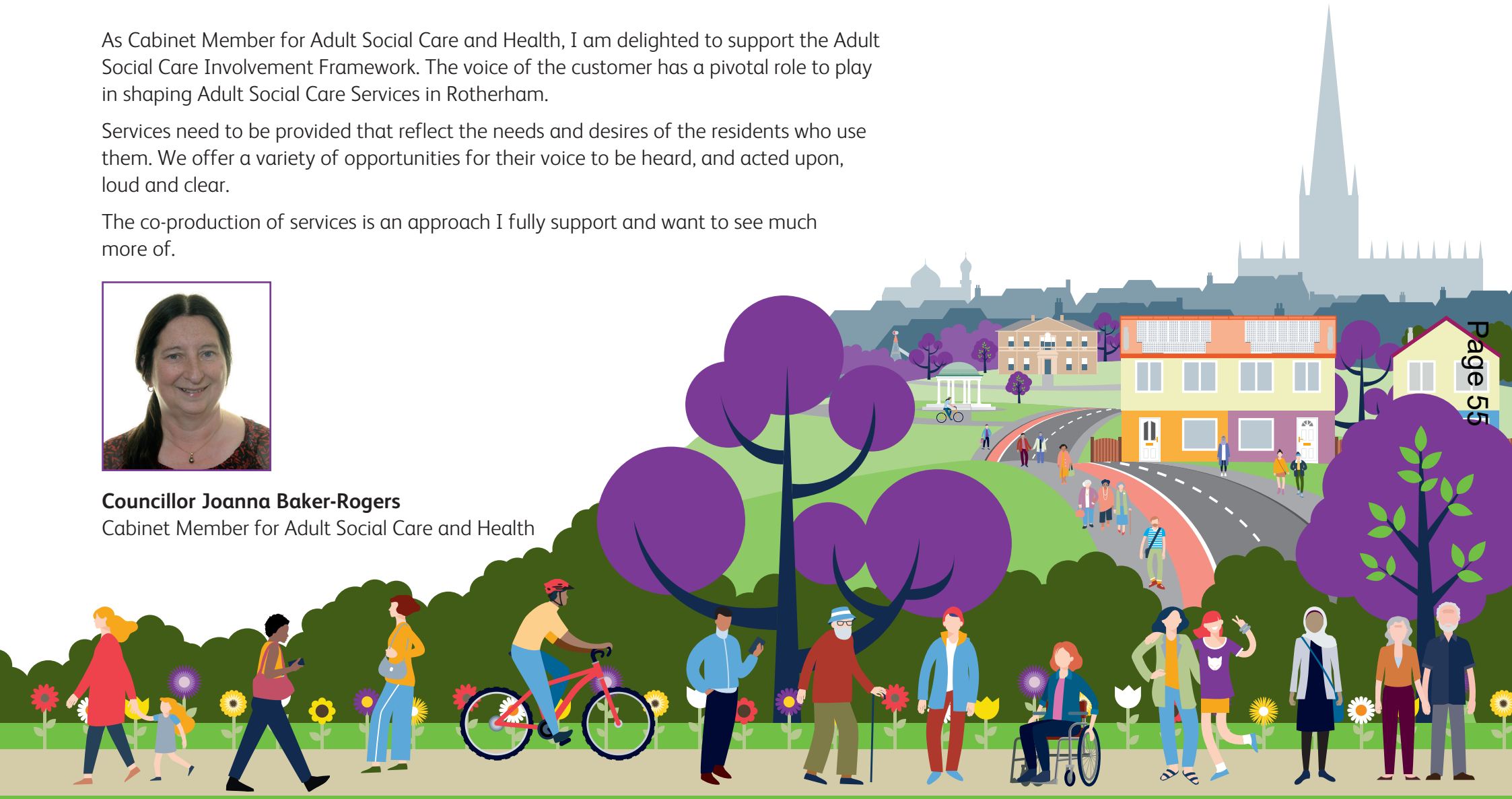
FOREWORD

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, I am delighted to support the Adult Social Care Involvement Framework. The voice of the customer has a pivotal role to play in shaping Adult Social Care Services in Rotherham.

Services need to be provided that reflect the needs and desires of the residents who use them. We offer a variety of opportunities for their voice to be heard, and acted upon, loud and clear.

The co-production of services is an approach I fully support and want to see much more of.

Councillor Joanna Baker-Rogers
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health



INTRODUCTION

People are experts in their own lives and their voices must be at the heart of Adult Social Care.

Only by listening to and working with people and communities can we design and deliver effective high-quality services in Rotherham.

The purpose of this framework is to support Adult Social Care to embed good involvement practice and to set out what people and communities can expect from us.

The framework focuses on how we involve people and communities in what we do, and the way that we do it

This framework is aligned to our Adult Social Care Practice Framework, which sets out our approach to working 'with' and not 'doing to' people.

The framework will drive our involvement practice ensuring collaborative involvement practices are embedded within service design and delivery.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY INVOLVEMENT?

CO-PRODUCTION

Working together in equal partnership from the start with people who access Adult Social Care services, their carers, and the wider community.

CO-DESIGN

People with lived experience and professionals designing things together.

ENGAGEMENT

Listening to people to understand their thoughts and feelings on a variety of topics, such as service delivery.

CONSULTATION

Asking for people's views on one or more ideas or options. Sometimes consultation also describes a formal process with specific legal requirements.

INFORMING

Providing information on proposed changes to people who access Adult Social Care.

WE WANT TO CREATE A CULTURE WHERE CO-PRODUCTION IS OUR DEFAULT

Sometimes there are limits we must work within, which mean that different levels of involvement will be appropriate for different pieces of work. Where limits exist, we will be honest and open about them.

We equally recognise that people want to be involved to differing extents and we will offer a range of ways in which people can get involved.

WHY INVOLVEMENT MATTERS

Good involvement benefits everyone – the Council, colleagues, communities and people. By sharing their experiences, ideas, skills and knowledge, people can help us to:

- Get it right first time.
- Avoid costly mistakes.
- Innovate and do things differently.
- Prioritise and find out what really matters.
- Improve outcomes for people and place.

Importantly, people tell us that good involvement has a positive impact on their own lives, including creating opportunities to share and develop skills and knowledge which can be used elsewhere. This contributes to better outcomes for individuals and supports communities to become stronger.

The importance of involvement is reflected in the guidance, regulations and laws that Adult Social Care follow. The Care Act 2014, the Care act 2014, Human Rights Act and Care Quality Commission assurance framework include requirements about engagement and co-production.

INVOLVEMENT AND FEEDBACK

When we will involve you

As a minimum, we will involve people when we carry out the following types of service development and delivery.

- Service design and improvement
- Strategy development
- Policy change
- Designing new ways of working

We want your feedback

Feedback is essential as it helps to shape our work, and we actively encourage people to share their views. It helps us to understand what is working well and what might need improvement. We provide a range of ways for people to feedback including:

- Our Friends and Family text messaging service to let us know how we did.
- Attendance at RASCAL Co Production Board.
- Through the compliments and complaints procedure.
- Attendance at the Learning Disability and Autism Partnership Boards.
- Participation in consultation events.

Who we will involve

We will work with a wide range of people and groups who have an interest in Adult Social Care.

This includes:

- People who access or need support from Adult Social Care including people who self-fund their support.
- Unpaid carers, both as stakeholders with lived experience of carers' support needs, and as people with knowledge of the needs and experiences of the people they support.
- Family and friends of people with lived experience.
- Colleagues from across the Council including Public Health, Housing, Commissioning and Neighbourhoods.
- Councillors.
- Other organisations who work within the health and care system, including NHS organisations, VCSE organisations, providers, emergency services and educational establishments.

It is important that we hear from a diverse range of people that reflects our communities. We will make an effort to include people we are not already reaching and who are more likely to experience health and care inequalities.

We will create opportunities for people to participate on an equal basis removing the barriers that prevent them from engaging.

PRACTICE TOOLS AND APPROACHES

Involving people and communities

When we involve people and communities, we will follow four key principles:

1. Involve early

Planning in advance is essential to ensure people's involvement has a genuine impact.

Involvement needs to be considered as early as possible to:

- Involve people from the outset.
- Influence decisions.
- Allow time to build relationships and trust.
- Value people's time and other commitments and give them enough notice to prepare and take part.

2. Involve clearly

Involvement starts with a clear understanding of what we wish to engage on and why. As part of this we need to understand what people and communities have already told us. This will help us clarify if we need to carry out new involvement and, if so, on what we should focus. We can then define clear objectives which will inform the design of each part of the involvement activity.

3. Involve proportionately

We do not want to overload people and communities or ask them to tell their story twice. This might mean prioritising or combining projects with other local partners where appropriate.

4. Involve Inclusively

We will be innovative and continue to challenge ourselves to develop a wider range of methods, including creative and digital approaches. We will ensure our involvement is accessible and inclusive, removing barriers that prevent people from being involved and adapting our methods for different groups and people. We will be flexible in our approach and aim to fit around our communities, rather than asking them to fit around us. This could include going to where people are, rather than asking them to come to us, or offering options that allow people to be involved at their convienience.

How we will involve you

There are several ways you may wish to get involved.

- Attendance at the Adult Social Care Co-Production board RASCAL (Rotherham Adult Social Care Always Listening)
- Through consultation events
- Through feedback mechanisms such as our friends and family text messaging review service or the Adult Social Care feedback cards
- Through ongoing conversations within forums such as the Rotherham Parent Carers Forum or the Learning Disability and Autism Partnership Boards
- Through involvement with our external partners such as Speak up and Healthwatch including participation in customer experience surverys i.e., the Safeguarding satisfaction measure

We will be open to people's ideas and look for opportunities for us to work together. We will engage with local networks and groups to support communities to talk to us, and act upon the things that matter to them.

CO-PRODUCTION IN ROTHERHAM

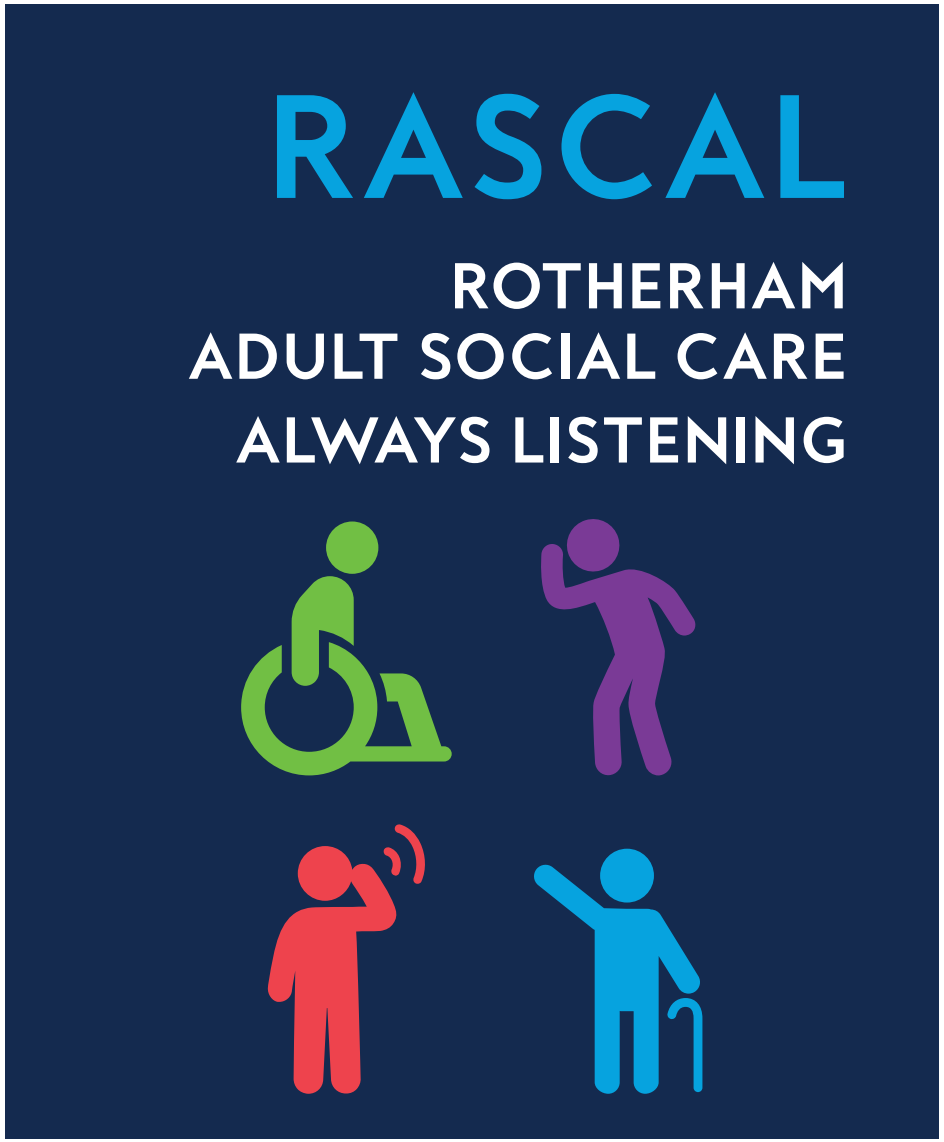
RASCAL

Rotherham Adult Social Care Always Listening (RASCAL) is a voluntary board that meets at least once a month to help shape and co design Adult Social Care services in Rotherham.

The board is diverse with representation from:

- People with lived experience.
- Parents and carers.
- Professionals.
- Community members.

RASCAL was formed in April 2024 with the support of Adult Social Care. People who had expressed an interest in helping shape Adult Social Care services during recent consultation events were invited to attend. The board chose their own name and elected their own Chair and Deputy Chair. The board have their own E bulletin and webpage to enable them to communicate and share their work with the wider community. The board works to support the Four Cornerstones approach to Co-Production.



CO-PRODUCTION IN ROTHERHAM

The Four Cornerstones approach to Co-Production

WELCOME AND CARE

- You will feel safe with us
- You will know what to expect
- We will offer you a supportive community
- Your happiness and wellbeing will matter to us
- People will help you feel good about yourself
- People will be sensitive to your needs

VALUE AND INCLUDE

- We will find out your needs as soon as we can
- People will show understanding and have the right skills to support you
- They will be creative, flexible and make adjustments so that you always feel included
- We will value and celebrate your strengths and achievements

PARTNERSHIP

- People will seek out your voice and what you say will be heard and valued
- You will be involved in decision-making about things that matter to you
- When you are working together with others on things you are an equal partner

COMMUNICATE

- We will give you the information you need
- You will get it in good time and in a form you understand
- We will use positive and helpful language
- People will make time to listen
- They will be calm and respectful
- Actions agreed will be followed-up and reviewed

LEARNING FROM INVOLVEMENT

We want our Involvement Framework to model best practice.

We will need to learn from your experiences to gain an understanding of the impact of our involvement activity. To do this, we will build reflection and evaluation into our involvement practice. We will share our learning with colleagues and partners so that we know what worked well and how we could improve in the future.

To ensure that we are making involvement a priority within Adult Social Care we will work with RASCAL, colleagues and peers to agree what success look like and how we measure it.

Our Involvement Framework places a focus on voice driving improvements across the service. We will use the information, intelligence and feedback we receive to inform our quality assurance activities to drive up performance and improve outcomes for residents.

We will check how we are performing and report on this to our leadership team, colleagues, and communities.

We will build engagement and co-production into service specifications and contracts and develop ways to monitor this through our Adult Social Care Strategic Commissioning team.

Where services are commissioned, we will gather feedback from the people who are accessing services. The feedback will be used to ensure that people receive the right level of care, and that where poor practice is identified we will put resources in place to address any concerns.

When we design a service, we work together with both professionals and advocates to ensure that people with lived experience can get involved. We work with our partners who are subject matter experts to host and facilitate specialist sessions so that we can capture as many people's opinions as possible.

We will work with our partners to develop accessible and robust engagement opportunities.

We will review this framework every two years.

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GET INVOLVED

We want people to get involved! If you would like to know more about how you can get involved then please contact us at:

RASCAL

ASC-CoProduction@rotherham.gov.uk

If you have a complaint, suggestion or compliment you can contact us in a number of ways:

Compliments

compliments@rotherham.gov.uk

Complaints

complaints@rotherham.gov.uk

Ref: 88351 / NOVEMBER 2023

Appendix 3:

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Adult Social Care Strategy 2027- 20XX	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	**Service area:** Service Governance and Improvement
Lead person: Rebecca Wilson, Acting Service Director, Adult Care and Integration	**Contact:** Rebecca.wilson@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

x	**Strategy / Policy**		**Service / Function**		**Other**

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The report seeks to implement an Adult Social Care Vision and Strategy for Rotherham which will replace the existing 2024 – 2027 strategy (available here).

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

Appendix 3:

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?	X	
Could the proposal affect service users?	X	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?	X	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	X	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6.**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4.**

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

These proposals will affect people with care and support needs, their families and carers, so it is crucial that they are able to fully and meaningfully contribute to the priorities and focus of the strategy through engagement and consultation. Therefore,

Appendix 3:

the consultation will be designed to ensure residents are effectively able to engage, and ensure their voice is heard and actively influence the outcomes.

- **Key findings**

The cohort of people affected through the development and implementation of the strategy are:

- People aged over 18 (or 17.5 years for those people transitioning into adulthood).
- Have care and support needs which could relate to frailty, a physical disability, a learning disability, autism or mental ill health.
- This includes people who provide unpaid care for someone with care and support needs.

- **Actions**

Early engagement sessions have taken place with groups of individuals that have lived experience of Adult Social Care services. These groups were identified as part of a wider staff working group to ensure the people we engaged with are representative of the people that we support. The findings from these sessions will be used to inform the consultation survey to ensure that we are asking about topics that are relevant to the people we support.

The session was co-designed in collaboration with our Adult Social Care Co-Production Board, RASCAL and piloted the first of those sessions with them so that they are able to feedback on how we may need to amend the session when delivering to the public.

Following Cabinet approval in July, a consultation will be designed and delivered in a way that enables people to effectively contribute to the priorities and focus of the Adult Social Care Strategy. This will be via a variety of methods i.e. an online survey and in person workshops. Particular attention will be paid to the design of information, questions and the tools used to share key information. This is to ensure the approach is fully accessible and understood by all interested individuals.

Following the consultation, the strategy will be designed in a user-friendly format and Plain English to ensure the target audience can fully understand the priorities for adult social care for the duration of the strategy. Particular attention will be paid to the design and format, to ensure the approach is fully accessible and understood by all interested individuals.

The strategy will be taken to cabinet in March 2027 for approval.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	17 April 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	17 April 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Rebecca Wilson, Acting Service Director, Adult Care & Integration

Appendix 3:

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Leah Sibley	Programme Development Officer	17.04.2026
Dania Pritchard	Assurance Lead	17.04.2026
Jack Harrison	Co-Production Lead	17.04.2026

6. Publishing	
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	17th April 2026
Report title and date	Adult Social Care Strategy 2027-32
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Increase	Potential emissions from using site facilities at consultation drop in venues. This will depend on how the venue is being utilised already. Sites already in use will have a lower carbon impact than those which are being opened specifically. In any case, the impact will likely be small.	No additional impacts.	Mindful consumption Tagging onto existing events/bookings.	All emissions from operational buildings are monitored and reported publicly.
Emissions from transport?	Increase	Emissions from vehicle mileage incurred by individuals (staff and partners) attending public consultations/drop ins.	Emissions from vehicle mileage incurred by individuals attending public consultations/drop ins.	Offer/attend drop ins in different areas to offer more local options and minimise visit travel distances.	Emissions associated with Council staff mileage and travel are captured annually.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	Potential emissions from leaflets and resources handed to residents e.g., due to printing and if littered.	As per Council impact.	Encouraging individuals to complete online survey via QR code rather than paper copy. Only printing and distributing leaflets as required.	Comparing number of online responses to paper responses.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				

Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Unknown				

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

Reducing carbon emissions and working towards net zero targets, is part of the One Council theme in the Council Plan 2025-30 under the section ‘Climate Change’. Actions under this theme include but are not limited to cutting down on activities that waste energy and resources; using the Councils influence to encourage partners, local businesses, anchor organisations, and our residents to be mindful of their environmental impact and to be more sustainable.

Will the proposal affect Council services’ resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

There is no direct impact on resilience to climate change as a result of this decision.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The strategy’s main climate impacts stem from increased transport emissions due to travel to consultation events, and potential waste from printed materials. To mitigate these, the Council plans to host events locally to reduce travel distances, car share and promote digital engagement through QR codes and e-bulletins, limiting printed resources to essential use.

Use of non-domestic buildings for consultations may contribute to emissions, though this is uncertain. Mitigation includes aligning with existing bookings and mindful resource use.

No impacts have been identified in relation to housing, construction, or carbon capture, and the strategy does not affect climate resilience or adaptation capacity. Overall, the proposal supports the Council’s broader climate goals under the “One Council” theme, encouraging sustainable practices across the Borough.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Leah Sibley Programme Development Officer Service Improvement and Governance Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Council Plan 2025-30
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 642 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

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Agenda Item 7

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 6 July 2026

Report Title
Health Select Commission Scrutiny Review – Menopause

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Chris Paddock, Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)
Kerry Grinsill-Clinton, Governance Advisor
01709 807267 or kerry.grinsill-clinton@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report summarises the findings and recommendations of the Health Select Commission Spotlight Review into the Menopause. According to the NHS website, 'Perimenopause is when you have symptoms of menopause but your periods have not stopped. Perimenopause ends and you reach menopause when you have not had a period for 12 months'.

Originally, this piece of work was progressed as a Health Select Commission Workshop arising from its 2025/26 work programme, however, immediately following completion of the workshop it became clear that the quality and engagement in the workshop was such that there was a strong desire from all participants to see progress made in relation to the recommendations developed during the session. As such, through subsequent consideration by the Health Select Commission Chair in conjunction with the Governance Manager and Head of Democratic Services, it was agreed that it was appropriate to re-frame the work undertaken as a Spotlight Review in order to deliver the progress and impact sought by those who participated.

This report sets out the evidence heard during the Spotlight Review, reflecting the experiences of Rotherham residents and the current system infrastructure surrounding Menopause advice, guidance and treatment options available within the borough and the recommendations made arising from that work.

The report was endorsed by the Health Select Commission during its 14 May 2026 meeting, and subsequently by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its 3

June 2026 meeting for progression and consideration and is therefore presented to Cabinet in line with the scrutiny review process.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Receives the recommendations listed as approved by Health Select Commission:

   Public Awareness and Information, Including Engaging Men and Young People:

   a) That the Council seeks to improve public awareness of perimenopause and menopause through:
      i) The establishment of a single, well-promoted online menopause resource on the RotherHive or another appropriate online medium, supported by printed information that can be accessed via relevant community settings accessible to the digitally excluded.
      ii) That bespoke targeted content aimed at men, young people and employers is included in that resource to ensure a holistic and borough wide approach to raising awareness.
      iii) That the Council works with education providers including schools and colleges to ensure that young people receive age appropriate advice and guidance regarding the effects of the menopause and how to seek support if they or their loved ones are affected.

   Primary Care Improvement:

   b) That the Council seeks to support Primary Care Improvement in relation to perimenopause and menopause through:
      i) Encouraging the adoption of a 'Menopause Champion' in every GP Practice in Rotherham, and sharing information regarding GPs' Menopause Champions once achieved.
      ii) Encouraging, via the 'Menopause Champion' GP network and in conjunction with the NHS Healthcare in the Community Agenda, Development of the Town Centre Health Hub and through collaborative work with TRFT (The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust), RDaSH (Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust) and South Yorkshire ICB (Integrated Care Board), the establishment of a clear and consistent menopause pathway, including consistent assessment tools and referral guidance.
      iii) Encouraging, through the 'Menopause Champion' GP network and collaborative work with TRFT, RDaSH and South Yorkshire ICB, the expansion of GP and practice staff training through Protected Learning Time and online modules to further support service delivery, consistency and

capability to provide perimenopause and menopause care in Primary Care settings.

Mental Health Support:

c) That the Council seeks to improve Mental Health Support during perimenopause and menopause by:
   i) Encouraging health partners, including GPs to embed menopause screening questions within Talking Therapies and other mental health pathways.
   ii) Increase the visibility of mental health support options within all menopause information, advice and guidance materials.

Community Support and Engagement:

d) That the Council seeks to improve Community Support and Engagement during perimenopause and menopause by:
   i) Working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to expand menopause cafés and community information sessions across more venues.
   ii) Working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to further develop outreach support to minority ethnic communities, faith groups and groups with language barriers.

Workplace Health:

e) That the Council seeks to improve Workplace Health in the context of perimenopause and menopause by:
   i) Producing and promoting a bespoke ‘Rotherham Menopause Workplace Toolkit’ setting out best practice, reasonable adjustments and support options for adoption by the Council and which can be shared with employers across the borough to support ‘menopause positivity’, creating space for open conversations and contributing to reducing the number of women affected by perimenopause and menopause who leave the workforce.
   ii) Promoting workplace ‘Menopause Champions’ in local organisations and businesses, starting with RMBC (Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council) as an exemplar employer

System Leadership:

f) That the Council seeks to improve System Leadership in the context of perimenopause and menopause by:

i) Utilising the connectivity of the Rotherham Women's Health Network to support the drive for better perimenopause and menopause awareness and care across the borough.
ii) Inviting partners who work with the Council as part of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Rotherham partners, who comprise of some of the borough's largest employers, to adopt workplace 'Menopause Champions' and to support a broader agenda of working towards making Rotherham a 'Menopause Friendly Borough'.
iii) Developing a shared multi-agency action plan with measurable outcomes in support of that aim, including considering inclusion of improvements in menopause information, advice and support in the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
iv) Working with relevant Council Services, Health Partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to explore opportunities to secure sustainable long-term funding for menopause initiatives across Rotherham Place.

2. Following submission to Cabinet, that those recommendations within the control and influence of external bodies, are shared with relevant health partners and commissioners for consideration and response.

3. That Cabinet provide a response to these recommendations within 2 months in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Appendix 2, The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Part 3, Section 1.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

BBC News article outlining the inclusion of Menopause questions in NHS Health Checks
Department of Health and Social Care, Baroness Merron and Rt Hon MP Wes Streeting Press Release
Women's Health Concern - A Woman's Relationship with the Menopause Infographic
Women's Health Concern - Menopause National Survey Results Infographic
Women's Health Concern - Understanding the Risks of Breast Cancer Infographic
Women's Health Concern - Emotional Wellness in Menopause
British Menopause Society - What is the Menopause Fact Sheet
British Menopause Society - Menopause Practice Standards Fact Sheet
British Menopause Society - Menopause identification and management: from NICE guidelines to practice
British Menopause Society - Top Ten Tips
British Menopause Society HRT Guide
British Menopause Society - HRT and Breast Cancer Risks Fast Facts
British Menopause Society - CBT for Menopausal Symptoms
British Menopause Society - Managing Sleep Disturbances

British Menopause Society - Nutrition and Weight Gain Top Ten Tips
British Menopause Society - Menopause in Ethnic Minority Women
British Menopause Society - Menopause and the Workplace Guidance
Menopause Support - Understanding Menopause Essential Guide
Healthwatch Rotherham - Menopause Report
South Asian Women's Experience of Menopause Report
Rotherham United Community Trust Health and Wellbeing Guide (Including Menopause Support Fitness and Chat Sessions)
RDaSH Talking Therapies – Rotherham's Menopause Support Offer Presentation
Official Census and Labour Market Statistics for Rotherham

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

14 May 2026 Health Select Commission meeting.
3 June 2026 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Health Select Commission Scrutiny Review – Menopause

1. Background

1.1 The Health Select Commission convened a multi-agency menopause Workshop to explore the lived experience of Rotherham residents, to understand challenges within current service pathways, and identify opportunities to strengthen support across health, community and workplace settings.

1.2 The session brought together GPs and Clinicians, the Council's Public Health, Adult Commissioning and Libraries Services, Healthwatch Rotherham and Voluntary and Community Sector providers such as Rotherham United Community Trust (RUCT) with Elected Members representing the Health Select Commission. Discussions revealed some consistent themes, identified some areas of strength and others where more could be done to support Rotherham's residents through their experience of the Menopause.

1.3 During those discussions, Members and participants were encouraged to keep three key questions in mind:

- Did evidence and experiences presented reflect sufficient awareness and understanding of perimenopause and menopause issues across the borough?
- Were Rotherham's pathways and services truly aligned with the level of need around perimenopause and menopause?
- Crucially, where were the gaps. What areas of need in relation to perimenopause and menopause were not yet addressed or supported as effectively as necessary?

1.4 The recommendations produced during the session have direct links to the Council Plan 2025-2030 in the context of the 'Residents Live Well', 'Children and Young People Achieve' and 'An Economy That Works For Everyone' Strategic Outcomes, which in conjunction with participants' expressed wishes and expectations, led to the ultimate determination to re-frame the Workshop as a Spotlight Review and prepare this report to formalise those recommendations.

2. Key Issues

2.1 In terms of the Spotlight Review's alignment with the Council Plan, it was felt that there was the potential for the findings to directly and/or indirectly impact three Strategic Outcomes as follows:

2.1.1 <u>Residents Live Well:</u>

The Council Plan reflects that 'Improving the health of Rotherham residents is a key priority. Our new Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030, provides the framework for wide-ranging action, with local partners, to

enable Rotherham people to live happy, healthy, independent lives within thriving communities, regardless of their background or circumstances' and that 'We will also support people to maintain and improve their physical and mental health'. Members recognised that the effects of Menopause posed significant physical and mental health challenges for Rotherham people and improved advice, guidance, support and treatment for those affected in the Borough would positively contribute to the achievement of the Council's stated aims in relation to this Strategic Outcome.

2.1.2 Children and Young People Achieve:

The Council Plan states that 'In Rotherham, we want our children and young people to start well, grow with support, and feel safe and heard. We aim to create a place where they can dream big, knowing that no matter their background or challenges, they have the opportunity to achieve their aspirations and reach their full potential. Providing stability, skills and opportunity for our children and young people will inevitably benefit Rotherham as a whole. By ensuring our young people have the best possible start in life, by empowering them and enabling them to flourish, we can make them feel like they have a stake in our town and encourage them to be part of its successful future'. Members recognised that often, young people experienced disruptions in family dynamics and the stability and consistency of their home environment attributable, at least in part, to the impact of Menopause on their loved ones, which had the potential to adversely affect their own mental health and wellbeing, their academic performance and in turn their long-term aspirations and quality of life. Better understanding of and response to those experiencing perimenopause and menopause had the potential to minimise or mitigate those potential adverse impacts.

2.1.3 An Economy That Works for Everyone:

The Council plan refers to 'equipping people with the core skills that provide the bedrock for securing employment, as well as offering holistic support to overcome any barriers that are preventing them from finding and maintaining Employment' and Members recognised that experiencing Menopause, or the wider familial impacts of the Menopause, could significantly increase barriers to securing or maintaining employment. Work on this area could support the achievement of one of the long term measures of success for this Strategic Outcome, 'An increase in the proportion of the working age population who are in work (or actively looking for work) in Rotherham'.

2.2 Review Methodology

2.2.1 A working group was convened which included the following Health Select Commission Members:

- Councillor Keenan (Chair)
- Councillor Clarke

- Councillor Thorp
- Councillor Duncan
- Councillor Brent
- Councillor Garnett
- Councillor Harper

2.2.2 A number of Council Officers, Health Partners and other relevant Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations were also invited to participate, with representation during the session from:

- Amanda Smith, Libraries and Neighbourhood Hubs Team Leader, RMBC
- Colin Ellis, Public Health Practitioner. RMBC
- Ruth Fletcher-Brown, Public Health Specialist, RMBC
- Dr Linda Strettle, GP Partner, The Village Surgery
- Andrea McCann, Community Project Officer, Rotherham Healthwatch
- Kym Gleeson, Manger, Healthwatch Rotherham
- Jodie Goodall, Health and Wellbeing Manager, Rotherham United Community Trust (RUCT)
- Radhika Gosakan, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT)
- Jemma Hall, Communications and Engagement Officer, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Himber NHS Trust (RDaSH) Talking Therapies

Unfortunately, the South Yorkshire ICB were unable to send representation to participate in the session on this occasion, as were the Rotherham Women's Health Network.

2.2.3 Evidence gathering, round-table discussions and the development of agreed recommendations was undertaken during a three hour, in person session conducted under a workshop format.

2.3 **Discussion themes and key insights**

2.3.1 Discussions centred around the following themes:

2.4 <u>Public Awareness and Information, Including Engaging Men and Young People:</u>

2.4.1 Members benefited from a professional explanation and technical definition of perimenopause and menopause, including the varied presentation of symptoms experienced by women at different stages of their menopause journey, and noted that research reflected that 70-80% of women experienced some menopause symptoms, with as many as 25% of women experiencing severe symptoms that had significant adverse impacts on their daily lives. In the context of Rotherham's population based on 2024 Census data, that represented a number in the region of 98,000 to 113,000 women expected to experience some menopause symptoms, and up to 35,000

women expected to experience severe symptoms during their lifetime. Members felt this represented a significant health challenge.

2.4.2 They heard that women often struggled to recognise perimenopause and menopause symptoms and did not know where to seek support. Current information was fragmented, lengthy, or too clinical in nature to be easily understood and translated into tangible actions that could be taken by affected individuals. Many were unaware of what constituted a menopause-related symptom, leading to fear, misattribution and delayed help being sought.

2.4.3 Members were advised about the role of Oestrogen and Progesterone in perimenopause and menopause, and given information in relation to the various types of HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy) available to treat symptoms. Information was also shared regarding the risks of HRT including the risk of cancer, balanced against other behaviours such as the effect of diet, exercise, alcohol consumption and smoking on cancer risks. Members noted that whilst there had at one time been reticence in some quarters around HRT due to perceived risks, there had been increased uptake following a highly publicised TV documentary which challenged perceptions. Members noted the role of providing access to reliable and accurate information at scale in driving societal behavioural change.

2.4.4 RMBC Libraries, Healthwatch Rotherham and Rotherham United Community Trust (RUCT) were already providing well-attended menopause cafés and information sessions. However, it was acknowledged that:

- Coverage remained uneven across the borough.
- Sessions were not as widely publicised as they could be.
- Many women, especially those not engaged with healthcare services, were not aware that support existed.

2.4.5 Participants stressed the importance of peer support, particularly for those who felt isolated or misunderstood, as an effective tool for lessening the wider impacts of menopause symptoms.

2.4.6 Members were made aware of a report produce by South Yorkshire ICB (Integrated Care Board) in 2023 concerning Women's Health, including menopause, arising from the 2022 National Strategy for Women's health which reflected the following experiences of Rotherham women during perimenopause and menopause including women:

- Avoiding going out.
- Carrying spare clothing.
- Feeling disregarded by family members in terms of the symptoms they were experiencing.
- Feeling unsure of where to get help for anxiety and depression.
- Feeling the need to leave work as a result of the impact of symptoms.

- Being unwilling to admit to being perimenopausal or menopausal due to societal expectations and perceptions.
- Wanting greater awareness, advice, guidance and support to reduce embarrassment and stigma and to encourage more open conversations about perimenopause and menopause.

2.4.7 Members heard that perimenopause and menopause experienced women described a lack of understanding and awareness amongst partners and their children, which raised the potential of contributing to escalating family tensions and mental health pressures for both them and their loved ones. It was noted that in some cases, changes during menopause had driven or contributed to the failure of relationships and the breakdown of family units.

2.4.8 Members also considered the natural timeline of perimenopause and menopause often coinciding with women experiencing increased demands being placed upon them. In particular, it was noted that in England and Wales in 2024, the average age of mothers at childbirth was 31.0 years (Office for National Statistics Data) meaning that the pattern of parents increasingly having families later in life in turn increased the number of women experiencing perimenopause and menopause whilst also raising adolescent children addressing their own physical, hormonal and mental health challenges associated with puberty and pivotal educational milestones such as GCSEs, A-levels and University as they move toward and into adulthood.

2.4.9 It was likewise noted that through extended continuation of those patterns over time, increasingly many women were also simultaneously experiencing perimenopause and menopause whilst not only addressing those challenges, but whilst also seeing increased reliance from elderly relatives such as parents due to age-related general health issues and declining independence.

2.4.10 Members heard that the compounding nature of those competing demands and challenges exacerbated and intensified the adverse effects of perimenopause and menopause at time where the need for energy, emotional strength and personal resilience was arguably at its greatest for those women.

2.4.11 Members heard of the potential for the physical and mental health effects to contribute to difficulties in personal relationships, most notably within an individual's own household, and considered this in the context of the limitations to accessibility of information, support advice and guidance. Participants reflected that for many men, their first awareness or any level of understanding of the menopause is through experiencing the perimenopause stage when a woman is actively experiencing symptoms, whether as a son, partner, brother, friend, colleague or manager. It was noted that men had no personal experiences to draw on to aid their understanding and were not routinely educated in relation to the impacts of perimenopause and menopause and how to best respond to and support women around them experiencing symptoms, which affected their ability to

do so. Members heard that within both personal and professional relationships, this was further compounded by reluctance to openly discuss highly sensitive and personal issues connected to Women's Health for fear of embarrassment or insensitivity, or responding inappropriately due to lack of experience, awareness or understanding. It was likewise noted that women who were not perimenopause or menopause experienced, predominantly those in younger age groups, were in that same position.

2.4.12 Members and participants agreed that there was merit in increasing awareness and understanding of perimenopause and menopause amongst the following groups, with the intention of reducing stigma and achieving improved family dynamics:

- Men (partners, carers, family members).
- Younger people including secondary school-age children.
- Employers.

2.4.13 Both Members and other participants emphasised the need for:

- Concise, clear and plain-English guidance.
- Clear symptom explanations.
- Simple instructions on what to discuss with a GP.
- Improved visibility of resources, support, advice and guidance in community settings.

2.4.14 They noted that this would not only be likely to deliver health and wellbeing benefits for those experiencing perimenopause and menopause, but also to those with whom they lived and their dependants by contributing to:

- Maintaining emotional stability in the home environment and family unit by increasing awareness and understanding.
- Supporting young people to achieve their full potential, particularly during key developmental and educational milestones, by supporting emotional health, wellbeing and stability within the home environment.

2.4.15 Similarly, they considered that this would also support maintaining financial stability and a thriving local economy by contributing to:

- Supporting financial stability through maintaining an environment in which women were supported to remain economically active during perimenopause and menopause.
- Creating workplace environments better prepared to respond positively to the needs of women experiencing perimenopause and menopause and increasing the proportion of the overall population that was economically active.

2.5 Primary Care Improvement:

2.5.1 GPs were represented in the discussion by Dr Strettle, who in addition to bringing their own opinion and professional expertise in relation to perimenopause and menopause through particular interest in Women's Health in their role as GP Partner which included teaching across Rotherham for GPs in relation hormone replacement therapy and menopause, had also gathered the views of GPs and patients across Rotherham through surveys conducted in the GP practice to provide a broader and more representative overview.

2.5.2 Members heard that women reported variable experiences when approaching their GP, including dismissal, lack of recognition of perimenopause, and mixed messages around treatment options. Whilst some practices had highly trained and knowledgeable clinicians, others lacked a designated lead, resulting in inequalities in care across the borough.

2.5.3 Participants reflected that it was encouraging to see a focus on Primary Care interventions and improvement as all too often, when individuals presented at Hospital Clinics and Secondary Care settings in relation to perimenopause and menopause issues, the depth or duration the issue or issues experienced had already caused significant harm, and broader health impacts than would have been seen if need had been identified and addressed at the earlier stage. Members welcomed that view and endorsed the importance of early stage identification and intervention to improve outcomes.

2.5.4 Members heard that there was a Menopause Clinic in operation at Rotherham Hospital with the ability to provide specialist advice, guidance and support to Primary Care as required and which also served as a referral point for more complex cases which could not be resolved within the Primary Care setting. A description outlining the types of complex cases that would necessitate referrals into the Menopause Clinic at the Hospital setting from Primary Care was provided. Members were also advised of the proportion of patients seen by the Menopause clinic who had sought Menopause care privately at great cost, and in some cases without having had face to face contact with a Clinician prior to prescriptions for HRT being issued, potentially exposing those with complex care needs to additional risks.

2.5.5 Dr Strettle shared that as part of their preparations for participation in the session, they had contacted all Rotherham GP surgeries and requested details of a GP willing to act as the menopause point of contact for their clinic. Whilst they were unable to confirm whether every practice had responded, a significant proportion had and there was therefore a defined list of GPs within the Rotherham footprint willing to lead on those issues. Members welcomed that as encouraging progress towards improved delivery and intention to achieve greater consistency in the services offered to Rotherham residents.

2.5.6 Discussions acknowledged pressures around Primary Care. Members were advised that as a result of financial pressures arising from squeezed funding streams and the implications of pay increases and National Insurance contributions, there was an increasing need for GP Practices to focus on delivering services that generated income such as immunisations, diabetes and blood pressure control, particularly in the context of maintaining CQC (Care Quality Commission) standards and meeting targets. Members were advised that there was no specific funding for perimenopause or menopause care which limited the ability to make significant progress in those areas of delivery whilst carefully managing the need to maintain financially viable GP Practices. Likewise, the role of South Yorkshire ICB in setting funding rates, identifying regional priorities and commissioning, particularly in the context of the ongoing restructure of the organisation was considered along with the need to encourage direction of travel that supports issued identified locally.

2.5.7 Discussions acknowledged that in relation to Primary Care:

- GPs wanted more structured training in relation to perimenopause and menopause.
- There was appetite to nominate suitably trained practice-level champions, despite challenges around funding, financial feasibility and competing health priorities.
- A standardised perimenopause and menopause pathway could improve consistency and address service, experience and treatment inequalities that existed across the borough.
- A Community Clinician that worked across Primary and Secondary Care to streamline service delivery and reduce waiting times from referrals would be a ‘gold standard’ ambition.

2.6 <u>Mental Health Support:</u>

2.6.1 Members and other participants considered increased rates of incidence of anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation among midlife women, typically largely in the perimenopause and menopause window, and especially when racial variations relating to average onset of symptoms were taken into account.

2.6.2 Members heard that whilst clearly not all mental health issues affecting women in the relevant age ranges were attributable to perimenopause or menopause symptoms, there was clear evidence of correlation. Members hear that many women within the relevant age ranges did not recognise or consider the potential for mental ill health to be hormonally driven and potentially connected to perimenopause or menopause, including those that were indirectly driven by other menopause symptoms such as altered sleep, weight gain, loss of libido etc.

2.6.3 Members were advised that due to a lack of broad understanding around perimenopause and menopause, including the racial variations around symptom presentation and onset, GPs, Health Care Practitioners and

Mental Health Professionals may not routinely ask about questions about perimenopause or menopause, and women attending their local surgeries or Talking Therapies due to mental health concerns may either not be aware of or volunteer the connection themselves.

2.6.4 Members heard about support available via Talking Therapies through RDaSH (Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Trust).

2.6.5 Members heard that whilst male suicide rates were higher in Rotherham, a trend of increasing rates of suicide amongst women, particularly in certain age groups had been a source of concern for some time. Whilst there had been pockets of small scale regional research, in places such as Manchester and Liverpool, there had been no national research around the drivers of suicide in women and ways in which perimenopause and perimenopause experience might contribute to deaths by suicide in women.

2.7 Community Support, Engagement and Outreach:

2.7.1 Members heard that menopause sessions were delivered in some Rotherham Libraries, with support and involvement from Connect Healthcare Rotherham CIC (Community Interest Company), Healthwatch Rotherham, Places Leisure and RUCT. It was also noted that support for broader community outreach had been offered and delivered by TRFT's Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department on order to provide information, advice and guidance to specific communities that were harder to engage. Members noted that the menopause café and information and chat sessions were predominantly funded by RUCT. Most sessions delivered by RUCT were free of charge, whilst some attracted a small fee in order to allow sessions to continue to be viable. Members were keen that to maintain free provision wherever possible.

2.7.2 Members were advised that TRFT had also recently established a Women's Health Network, whose aim was to drive the kind of systemic improvements that were being considered. Whilst the Women's Health Network Chair was unable to attend the session, they were keen to explore how they could support any work to improve the experiences of perimenopausal and menopausal women in Rotherham.

2.8 Workplace Health:

2.8.1 Members and other participants heard that women shared examples of struggling at work due to perimenopause and menopause symptoms, and of experiencing embarrassment or fear of stigma. It was noted that a proportion of perimenopause and menopause aged women left employment entirely because of poor support, whether directly in the workplace or indirectly due to insufficient advice, guidance, and practical treatment options being offered to effectively manage symptoms.

2.8.2 Participants reflected that normalising workplace conversations about perimenopause and menopause was critical to breaking down broader

cultural barriers and stigma, and moving awareness and responsiveness in both professional and personal lives into a more open and comfortable space.

2.8.3 Members were advised that the Council's Public Health team had previously delivered some sessions on the menopause to Rotherham employers. It was noted that delivering training, information, advice and guidance through workplaces was an effective method of delivering information at scale and maximising reach.

2.8.4 Whilst members were advised that Public Health had delivered workplace menopause sessions, they heard that a borough-wide workplace health approach was needed, including:

- Practical adjustments guidance.
- Employee and Manager training and 'toolkits'.
- Workplace champion networks.

2.8.5 Members heard that the Council's Public Health Team did not have a Women's Health Lead, but that rather different Public Health Specialists whose roles comprised various elements of Women's Health.

2.8.6 Members heard that as significant employers in the region, the Local Authority and NHS infrastructures do not yet fully embody the behaviours discussions idealised around normalisation of and responsiveness to perimenopause and menopause in the workplace. Members welcomed a move towards those organisations becoming ambassadors for 'menopause friendliness' and embedding policies and procedures that aligned with the behaviours they wanted to see reflected across the borough as a whole under a broader ambition of being a 'Menopause Friendly Borough'.

2.9 <u>System Leadership:</u>

2.9.1 The Women's Health Network was identified as a potentially appropriate forum to co-ordinate borough-wide menopause work across Health Partners, Council Services and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

2.9.2 Participants reflected on the potential of 'RotherHive' as an online space for housing menopause, advice, guidance and resources for individuals and groups such as schools and employers under its 'Life Stages' area. Members welcomed the general idea of readily accessible and impactful information, resources and tools to support broader understanding and normalisation or perimenopause and menopause.

2.9.3 Members were advised that some Pharmacies in Rotherham were able to prescribe certain types of HRT in certain circumstances. However, what was not clear was which Pharmacies had that ability, whether there was any centra record of that or if that information what shared widely with Rotherham residents whom it might benefit. Members were keen to see that information shared to address some of the systemic pressures affecting

both Primary Care, and potentially partly driving the incidence of private menopause care being sought.

2.9.4 Members heard participants highlight that previous national funding for Women's Health had been short-term and non-recurrent, which created challenges in long-term planning and supporting improvements in service provision. Views were shared that previous approaches to Women's Health and in particular perimenopause and menopause could be considered tokenistic and did not generate an environment that facilitated broad cultural change or significant progress on the issue.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 During its 14 May 2026 meeting Health Select Commission considered the options presented to them and elected to support the recommendations detailed in this report. It was felt that the recommendations had the potential to deliver tangible improvements in health and wellbeing, whilst simultaneously supporting the broader vision and strategic outcomes described in the Council Plan.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Members have regard to the expressed views of their constituents in their formulation of scrutiny priorities and lines of inquiry. Recommendations from scrutiny are produced as outcomes from consultation by Members in their role as elected representatives of Rotherham residents.

4.2 In its review, the working group considered evidence from the officers and key partners. Those who participated are outlined in paragraph 2.2.2.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The accountability for implementing recommendations arising from this report will sit with Cabinet and relevant officers.

5.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules require Cabinet to consider and respond to recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the Select Commissions in no more two months from the date that Cabinet receives this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 No financial implications arise directly from this report, although the response to the review will need to take account of any such implications arising from consideration of the scrutiny recommendations.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications directly arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Implications for Children, Young People, and Vulnerable Adults are set out in the main body of the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Furthering equalities and human rights are scrutiny objectives; therefore, Members considered equalities in the development of scrutiny work programmes, lines of inquiry and in their derivation of recommendations designed to improve the delivery of council services for residents.

11. Implications for CO_2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no climate or emissions implications directly associated with this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Implications for partners are set out in the main section of the report outlining the Commission's findings. Cabinet will need to consider the implications for partners in its response to the recommendations from scrutiny.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Members have regard to the risks and mitigation factors associated with the services under scrutiny and have made recommendations accordingly.

14. Accountable Officer

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	17/06/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	10/06/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	10/06/26

Report Author: *Kerry Grinsill-Clinton*
01709 807267 or kerry.grinsill-clinton@rotherham.gov.uk

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title
Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy (2026-2032)

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Chris Paddock, Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)
Martin Hughes, Head of Neighbourhoods
martin.hughes@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected.
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
This report summarises the new Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy, replacing the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy which expired in 2025.

The Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy covers a six-year period to include the 2032 local elections and is intended to be flexible, supporting an agile approach to Neighbourhood Leadership for Councillors and officers.

It deals specifically with the role of Ward Councillors as neighbourhood leaders, building on the strong foundations which have been delivered over the last eight years. The Strategy sets out new aspirations for Ward Councillors to play an enhanced role in bringing residents closer to council services, enabling more responsive and locally impactful delivery.

This aligns with local, regional, and national policy ambitions to create stronger neighbourhood working. A complementary strategy (the new Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy) will be presented to Cabinet in December 2026. This will deal with broader issues of neighbourhood working, including how the council works with external partners within localities.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the approach of producing two strategies: A Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy, focusing specifically on the role of Ward Councillors; and a Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy setting out the overarching ambition for how the Council supports local working.

2. Approve the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy and the aspirations for Ward Councillors to play an enhanced role in bringing residents closer to council services, enabling more responsive and locally impactful delivery and note the accountability arrangements for services and enhanced focus on wellbeing and health inequalities.

List of Appendices Included
Appendix 1 Draft Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy 2026 - 2032
Appendix 2 Equalities Impact Screening Part A
Appendix 3 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers
Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy 2018-2025
our-inclusion-strategy-2026-to-2030
LGA corporate peer challenge: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council | Local Government Association
English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament
Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive, and resilient United Kingdom - GOV.UK
No Short Cuts: Towards a National Strategy for Neighbourhood Recovery - Independent Commission on Neighbourhoods

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy

1. Background

1.1 This report sets out a new strategy to enable deeper neighbourhood working and an enhanced role for Ward Councillors as leaders in localities.

1.2 Previously, the Council set out arrangements for neighbourhood working and community leadership within its Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy (2018-2025). This Strategy was approved by Cabinet in November 2018 following the introduction of the new Neighbourhood Working Model in May 2017. It was subsequently reviewed in 2022 and has recently reached the end of its lifespan.

1.3 The 2023 LGA (Local Government Association) Corporate Peer Challenge Report provided positive feedback on the Council's Neighbourhood Working Model, stating – '*The Council's Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy aspires to strengthen the role of ward members as community leaders who can work with their communities, their partners and those delivering service in communities to bring about the changes that they want to see. The peer team was impressed by the exemplary approach to community engagement at ward level, where dedicated and well-supported Ward Members take the lead'.*

1.4 The ambition of the next iteration of this work is to build upon this solid foundation to position Ward Councillors at the centre of a deeper process of neighbourhood engagement and delivery.

1.5 To deliver upon the breadth of the ambition, the Council will produce two strategies. A more wide-ranging Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy will be presented to Cabinet for approval in December 2026; this is preceded by the focus of this report, the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy, dealing specifically with the role of Ward Councillors as community leaders.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge Report (2023), includes a recommendation to '*Develop a clearer and shared understanding of integrated locality working'* and suggested that *'increased co-design and co-production of solutions and services alongside partner organisations can deliver enhanced outcomes for residents through improved services and solutions which are tailored to their needs'*.

2.2 This becomes even more important when considered alongside the most recent Resident Satisfaction Survey. This showed that, whilst overall satisfaction with the Council is positive and compares favourably with other peer councils, there has been a gradual decline in trust in the Council and a more significant fall in the feeling that the Council acts on the concerns of local residents. This reinforces previous survey results in support of Rotherham's Pride in Place programmes, which found that '*Residents do not*

feel listened to. While surveys and councillors are valued, people want clearer evidence that feedback leads to change'.

2.3 The Strategy has also been designed specifically, to deliver against the Inclusion Strategy themes of Working Together and Responsive Services, supporting Councillors to play an enhanced role in the co-production of services and ensuring that services are available and adaptive to a broader cohort of residents and communities.

2.4 Aligned to this, a focus on Neighbourhood Leadership also provides opportunities to develop more specific interventions in areas which experience the most significant health and economic inequality. This in turn, puts Ward Councillors at the heart of the Government's prevention agenda.

2.5 Effective neighbourhood working and governance is also an increasingly vital component of national policy. Rotherham's established model for neighbourhood working means the Council is well placed to capitalise upon this and position itself as a national leader in supporting Ward Councillors as a conduit to working more closely with and for Rotherham residents.

2.6 The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act introduced a new statutory duty on all local authorities to establish "appropriate arrangements" for effective neighbourhood governance. The Act's goal is to move decision-making closer to residents, so it is led by the people who most understand local needs.

2.7 The Act is explicit in its aim to empower Ward Councillors to take a greater leadership role in driving community priorities. It recognises the need for neighbourhoods and Ward Councillors to be a more prominent part of the regional system, alongside the expectation of competency placed on the Mayoral Combined Authority. In February 2026, Mayor Oliver Coppard attended a meeting of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and referred to this aim and desire to have stronger neighbourhood representation in the wider South Yorkshire system. This approach, and the principle of subsidiarity is further supported by the interim findings of the Independent Commission on Neighbourhoods which is reviewing the current state of neighbourhoods across England.

2.8 Other partners and institutions are also moving towards a principle of locality and subsidiarity. The NHS 10-Year Health Plan aims to shift care from hospitals to local communities by creating a 'neighbourhood health service'. This aspiration for neighbourhood health will be a key element of defining what is meant by a 'Thriving Neighbourhood'; establishing links between this and Ward Councillors will be critical to success.

2.9 Ideas of locality are also explored within the government's current community cohesion approach, defined in the 'Protecting What Matters' action plan (published March 2026). This focuses on three core pillars: Confident Communities, Cohesive Communities, and Resilient Communities. The first of these pillars embeds community leadership and local action as a means of creating more confident and enabled communities.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Given that the Neighbourhood Working Model is such a fundamental part of Rotherham's policy infrastructure, and that it was considered to be an '*exemplary approach*' by the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge Team in 2023, doing nothing to replace the expiring Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy was not considered desirable. As a result, two options were considered:

- Option 1: A single Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy, closely aligned with the 2018-2025 approach.

- Option 2 (preferred option): A Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy focussed more specifically on the role of Ward Councillors as leaders within their area, complemented by a Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy with a revised scope as set out above.

Option 1: A Single Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

3.2 This option considered developing a single Strategy for all neighbourhood leadership and partnership work, effectively continuing the approach which was taken for the 2018-2025 Strategy. This would set out arrangements not only for the role of Ward Councillors but also for coordination of partners, such as Police, Health, and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

3.3 Engagement with Councillors, officers and partners, confirmed that there was an aspiration to build upon the strong foundations which already exist in the Borough and to be more ambitious. This means moving beyond current arrangements and working practice and recognising that a single strategy that covers both Ward Councillor leadership and new local working practices with partners would be both too detailed and broad for a single strategy document.

Option 2: A Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy focused specifically on the Role of Ward Councillors

3.4 The second and preferred option involves the council producing two strategies.

3.5 The new Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy will ultimately define what a Thriving Neighbourhood is and how the Council will work with partners to create deeper working in the borough's localities. It will embed new ways of working that are underpinned by relationships within the Council and with partners in service of community cohesion and empowerment; community and social infrastructure; wellbeing; and young people.

3.6 The Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy provides the foundation for the future, outlining how the Council will support Ward Councillors to evolve their function as leaders in their localities.

3.7 Rotherham's Neighbourhood Working Model is already recognised for its strength in supporting Ward Councillors to lead engaging with residents and ensuring that council services respond to their needs.

3.8 This Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy seeks to give Ward Councillors an enhanced role as conveners and the conduit for resident aspirations, helping the Council to more readily listen, learn and respond to the needs of residents. The outcome of this will mean that local people feel more connected to the council, building trust and agency in all neighbourhoods.

3.9 Like the previous strategy, it is built on 'Strengths Based Working' and the role of Ward Councillors in shifting power and enabling communities to do things for themselves. It also provides more definition on what residents should expect from their Ward Councillors, and the support Ward Councillors can expect to help them deliver against this.

3.10 It represents an evolution in terms of each Ward Councillor's function in facilitating links between resident needs and council services. There is an expectation that Ward Councillors play more of a role as translators of local resident needs, as well as being conveners of local networks within their areas.

3.11 The Strategy, through a co-design process with Councillors and officers, provides new guidance on what it means to be a '21st Century Rotherham Councillor'. Alongside the seven Nolan Principles, this has identified ten core attributes of Ward Councillors as neighbourhood leaders. These are:

1. **Visible and Accessible** - Approachable, easy to contact, open to conversations, and responsive to the community. Present in the neighbourhood, known to residents and active locally.

2. **Trusted Listener** - Listening carefully to residents' experiences, needs, and ideas before acting. Absorbing challenge whilst remaining neutral and fair.

3. **Advocate** - Speaking up for all residents' concerns and aspirations at every level of the council, championing issues that matter locally and standing alongside residents when it counts.

4. **Empower** - Enabling residents and community organisations to be at the heart of decision making and providing opportunities for them to take control of the things that matter to them.

5. **Bridge Builder** - Providing the link between residents and the council to ensure local voices shape decisions.

6. **Champion** - Promoting local pride, strengthening community voice, and supporting local community organisations to thrive.

7. **Communicator** - Making sure residents are aware of things that are happening or may impact in their neighbourhood through multiple channels and explaining why decisions have been made.

8. **Responsible Representative** - Using power transparently and ethically on behalf of all residents and acting with integrity, fairness, and accountability.

9. **Connector** - Developing effective relationships between council services, partners, community groups, and residents to achieve shared priorities and outcomes.

10. **Problem Solver** - Working with the community to resolve local issues by navigating systems, influencing decisions, mediation, and unlocking solutions.

3.12 Six linked workstreams are identified to underpin the aspiration of the Strategy:

1. **Ward Priorities and Plans** - Providing evidence and insight to enable Ward Councillors to have information, to complement their local knowledge, to support leadership ambitions and plans.
2. **Devolved Neighbourhood Budgeting** – Optimising the local budgets which can be made available to Ward Councillors and residents to respond to local need.
3. **Leadership in Support of Council and Partner Services** – Developing new protocols and working arrangements to enable all Ward Councillors to be able to shape services specific to their area.
4. **Ongoing Support and Leadership Development –** Supporting Ward Councillors to evolve as leaders.
5. **The Role of Residents in Neighbourhood Leadership** – Supporting Ward Councillors to encourage residents to get proactively involved and have greater influence and agency in their area.
6. **Measuring Impact and Feeding Back -** Better measuring the impact of the Neighbourhood Leadership and Neighbourhood Coordination functions. Enabling more frequent and centrally collated resident feedback to provide further influence over the core functions of the council.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Consultation on the Strategy has focussed on the practical role of Ward Councillors and their interaction with other parts of the Council. This has included:

- Consultation and co-production workshop with Councillors (including those on the Improving Places Select Commission and Overview and

Scrutiny Management Board), exploring the evolving role of Ward Councillors as 21st Century Rotherham Councillors alongside expectations of engagement with services.

- Consultation and co-production workshop with Council services and partners, considering the potential for improved local working and opportunities to facilitate better sharing of information and more responsive local delivery.
- A questionnaire shared with all Councillors to offer an opportunity to contribute to the development of the strategy. The survey was completed by 15 Councillors.

4.2 Further engagement will take place in support of the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy over the course of Autumn 2026. This will include engagement with a wider partnership cohort as well as engagement with local residents to understand their expectations from neighbourhood delivery.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Delivery of the Strategy is predominately via the 25 ward plans. Ward Councillors and the Neighbourhoods Teams review and update these plans on a monthly basis.

5.2 Ward Councillors present reports to Council to illustrate progress against their ward priorities - the latest cycle of reports to Council commenced in July 2025 - with a Thriving Neighbourhoods annual report presented to Improving Places Select Commission.

5.3 A Thriving Neighbourhoods Programme Board, chaired by the Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement, has been established to oversee the development and delivery of both strategies. This will replace the previous Localities Working Board and will report directly into the Strategic Leadership Team. This will provide the direct line of communication from ongoing resident dialogue and decisions on the evolution of council services.

5.4 New protocols and delivery arrangements will be drafted and socialised with Councillors and officers over the course of the remainder of 2026. These will include enhanced arrangements for local service accountability and escalation.

5.5 A draft of the new Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy will be completed ahead of Cabinet in December 2026.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no additional financial implications as a result of the proposed approval to produce the two strategies, a Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy and a Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy. The activity required to deliver these two strategies will be covered within existing budget allocations.

6.2 There are no direct procurement implications to deliver these two strategies. However, if there is any requirement for services to support their

development or because of their development new activity is required, then procurement processes will be followed. All procurement activity (revenue and capital) must be procured in compliance with relevant legislation (the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended), the Procurement Act 2023, or the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The Council has power to adopt and implement the proposed Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy under its general functions and community leadership role. The proposals are consistent with the Council's obligations to promote effective neighbourhood governance, including the requirements set out in emerging legislation such as the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act.

7.2 The Act establishes a statutory expectation that local authorities must put in place "appropriate arrangements" for neighbourhood governance, enable decision-making closer to residents, including meaningful local involvement. The Act also requires local authorities to make arrangements to support and strengthen the role of Ward Councillors as community leaders and ensure governance arrangements are effective, transparent, and accountable.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no specific Human Resources implications arising from the content of this report.

8.2 The Organisational Development function will provide appropriate advice and support should any learning and development interventions be identified.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Neighbourhood Working Model includes the need to identify ward priorities and agree action to address these through ward plans. The most recent ward priorities were published in October 2024 and illustrate where Ward Councillors are targeting resources towards Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults. This includes new or additional activities, improved facilities, or improved access to services. A number of Wards have priorities which will try to mitigate against the 'Cost of Living' crisis and the impact on families.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 As work commences on the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy, there will be further engagement (with residents and partners) which will provide additional opportunities to assess equalities performance. This will ensure that further mitigations are considered and can inform the implementation of the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy.

10.2 Given that this is part of a suite of strategies and that the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy, will have a more direct focus on the needs of residents and specific communities, it is suggested that a single Equalities Assessment (Part B) is completed to accompany the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy in December 2026.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy will not pose any risk to Rotherham's plans in relation to climate crisis. The proposed activities offer an opportunity for enhanced dialogue on climate and nature and possible innovation in support of 'net -zero' objectives.

11.2 Neighbourhood Leadership and the broader ambition of bringing residents closer to services and decision making could potentially have wide ranging benefits in supporting resilience and adaptation. Through collaboration, ward councillors and Neighbourhood Coordinators can play an active role in mitigating the disproportionality of climate impact, supporting diverse groups and those with protected characteristics to overcome impacts such as increased heatwave events.

11.3 Ward councillors can be supported to better understand impacts of climate within their locality which can in turn, ensure that this is given greater prominence in their development of ward plans and allocation of ward budgets.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Joint working with partners across the public, voluntary, and private sectors is essential to the delivery of the Neighbourhoods Leadership Strategy and the Council's Neighbourhood Working Model.

12.2 The ward priorities and plans are informed by the experience and intelligence from these partners, which encourages the establishment of shared priorities and goals.

12.3 A range of neighbourhood-based partnerships and networks are in place to tackle the priorities within the ward plans. This includes Community Action Partnerships (CAPs) which operate in all 25 Wards and provide a vehicle to tackle community safety-related issues.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Risks and the associated mitigations relating to the delivery of the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy are captured and tracked in the Policy Strategy and Engagement Risk Register. These include:

Risk	Mitigation
External factors limit community cohesion and trust, undermining the strategy	The council will work with local, regional, and national partners to monitor and take proactive action in

	response to national trends and sentiment. Enhanced arrangements for sharing information and feedback will enable a more rapid and informed response to this.
Lack of development or support for local councillors preventing them maximising their role as community leaders	An enhanced role for Neighbourhood Coordinators will enable them to identify training and development needs on an ongoing basis. This will be supported by more agile member support, related directly to the competencies within this strategy.
Understanding and engagement of local councillors.	Working with political groups and scrutiny committees to ensure that Councillors are well informed and see the benefits of engaging with the support available to them through this strategy.
Capacity of Council services and partners to respond to local priorities and issues	Clearer governance through the new Thriving Neighbourhoods Board, will provide more formal links to Strategic Leadership Team, providing clear routes to use Executive Directors to support their directorates to engage with the principles of the strategy and the actions emerging from local dialogue and evidence.
Parish Councils not actively involved in neighbourhood working	Parish Council coordination is managed through the Neighbourhood Team, who work closely with Parish Clerks to ensure they are offered a similar level of support and engagement as other places. This is delivered in collaboration with relevant ward councillors.
Lack of service responsiveness undermining delivery	New protocols, practices, and arrangements for escalation will be developed following the approval of the strategy. These will be socialised with Strategic Leadership Team, Service Directors and with individual Directorate Leadership Teams to provide clarity and understanding of new ways of working.
Inconsistent neighbourhood coordination across wards	Neighbourhood Coordinators already work collaboratively, meeting collectively on a monthly

	basis and working together with neighbouring areas on an ongoing basis.
Failure to address inequalities	Neighbourhood Leadership will be an essential element of the overall council strategy for tackling inequality. It will provide valuable information and focussed intervention. It will not however, be the only strategy or intervention in this space. Enhanced monitoring and feedback will drive a deeper impact on factors which impact upon inequality and will enable clearer identification of risks and challenges in specific localities.

14. Accountable Officers

Jane Maxwell
Director Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	19/06/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	11/06/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	17/06/26

Report Author: Martin Hughes
Martin.hughes@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1: Draft Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy - 2026 – 2032

Contents

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Forward by Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

It is now four years since we updated our Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy (2018-2025). This set out the Council's commitment to strengths-based working at a neighbourhood level, and specifically the role that Ward Councillors play as leaders in our communities.

I am proud of how far we have come in the last seven years, and the role that this approach has played in bringing our residents closer to the Council and the services we deliver. Now, we have the opportunity to go further in this, our Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy (2026-2032). This is our plan to further empower our Ward Councillors to be at the heart of a more responsive, resident-led approach to local government.

We have worked with Councillors from all parties and officers from across the council, to develop an even more ambitious strategy; one which raises expectations of what we can achieve when we work together. Still underpinned by our Strengths-Based Approach, we are developing new practices based around a set of co-produced characteristics which we call 'The 21st Century Rotherham Councillor'.

Our work is already recognised nationally, but with the world changing rapidly, we cannot stand still. In this document we champion new ways of working; raise expectations of Councillors and officers alike; and give residents a more specific role in supporting Neighbourhood Leadership, all to ensure that our places are thriving, safe and clean and that our residents live well.

Councillor Victoria Cusworth
Deputy Leader of Rotherham Council

Our Ambition

Rotherham's neighbourhood model is already recognised nationally for its strength in supporting Ward Councillors to act as leaders, engaging with residents and ensuring that Council services respond to their needs.

This strategy seeks to build on this strong foundation to define and embed this further. It gives Ward Councillors an even more enhanced role as convenors and the conduit for resident aspirations, helping the Council to more readily listen, learn and respond to the needs of residents. We defined this as 'The 21st Century Rotherham Councillor'.

The outcome of this will mean that local people feel more connected to the Council, building trust and agency in all our neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood leadership will play a key role in addressing inequalities and improving outcomes in our most deprived communities, ensuring that resources, attention and partnership activity are focused where need is greatest.

This is an important part of our ambition to build more cohesive communities and to support our partners to work alongside us in meeting resident needs. To do this we will need to develop new ways of working, devolve budgets more effectively and ensure that Rotherham Ward Councillors have the training and support they need to work as leaders in their neighbourhoods.

The Council will ensure that neighbourhood governance arrangements remain compliant with emerging national legislation, including the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act.

Rotherham's Ward Councillors

The Council has 59 elected Councillors, representing 25 wards inside the Rotherham Borough geographical boundary.

Each of these Councillors are neighbourhood leaders and act as the bridge between the community or ward, and Council and statutory services. They serve four-year terms and are responsible for three core pillars of local governance

- representing constituents
- making policies
- scrutinising decisions

Our Councillors work with services, partners and communities to deliver on local priorities that contribute to vibrant and thriving neighbourhoods where residents feel happy, safe and proud.

For the purposes of our neighbourhood coordination, we also group wards into three geographies, north, south and central. This helps us to achieve further efficiency and impact through collaboration between Ward Councillors.

Working in Context

Neighbourhood Leadership is a vital component of how we work as a Council and as a wider system. It will play a central role in addressing **inequalities in health, wellbeing and life chances**, particularly in areas of highest deprivation.

In the Rotherham Council Plan (2025-2030) we set out our vision for the borough.

*Rotherham is our home, where we come together as a community, where we seek to draw on our proud history to build a future, we can all share. We value decency and dignity and seek to build a town where opportunity is extended to everyone, where people can grow, flourish and prosper, and where no one is left behind. To achieve this as a Council we must work in a modern, efficient way, to deliver sustainable services in **partnership with our local neighbourhoods**, looking outwards, yet **focussed relentlessly on the needs of our residents.***

Partnering with our neighbourhoods cuts across everything we do. Continuing to deliver this effectively is a continuous job, which will require ongoing adaptation, reflection and communication. We continue to work with local people to find solutions to local issues, building on our heritage and assets as well as bringing people together and supporting improved wellbeing and quality of life.

Ward-based working will be informed by data on deprivation and inequalities, ensuring that local action is targeted to those communities experiencing the poorest outcomes.

Our consultation surveys and ongoing conversations with residents tell us that, in common with the rest of the UK, trust in the Council is declining, people are not satisfied with the responsiveness of the Council, and residents often don't feel listened too. This is why the strategy is such a priority.

Delivering Against National Policy Ambitions

Neighbourhood leadership is now an important part of national ambition.

The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act has introduced a new duty on all local authorities to establish "appropriate arrangements" for effective neighbourhood governance. The goal is to move decision-making closer to residents, so it is led by people who understand local needs, with Ward Councillors playing a more place-based collaborative role, beyond purely representing residents in Council meetings.

Ideas of local leadership are also promoted in "Protecting What Matters", the Government's action plan for community cohesion. This moves beyond traditional integration by focusing on three core pillars: Confident Communities, Cohesive Communities, and Resilient Communities. The first of these pillars embeds neighbourhood leadership and local action as a means of creating more confident and enabled communities.

Other partners and institutions are also moving towards a principle of locality and subsidiarity. The NHS 10-Year Health Plan aims to shift care from hospitals to local

communities by creating a ‘neighbourhood health service’. This provides further opportunity for Ward Councillors to play an enhanced role at the heart of their neighbourhoods, something which is already embedded in ‘A Decade of Opportunity’, the ten-year plan for our wider partnership (including, health, police, business and voluntary sector), Rotherham Together.

We are fortunate that we have an established, well-resourced neighbourhood model; the challenge is to build upon this, deepening impact and becoming an exemplar for other councils regionally and nationally.

How we will Work: A Strengths-Based Approach to Neighbourhood Leadership

Our approach to supporting Neighbourhood Leadership is underpinned by the Council's commitment to **strengths-based working**.

This recognises and builds upon the skills, resources, knowledge, experience and heritage of our communities, and that of our voluntary, community and faith sector. It is a positive approach, focusing on local assets whilst recognising and responding to **structural inequalities and disadvantage** experienced by some communities. This includes supporting early intervention and prevention activity aimed at reducing long-term demand on public services, particularly in areas of higher need.

Whilst Councillors still play a vital role in responding to crises, this strategy positions them as leaders, with the agency to maximise their skills, expertise and knowledge to:

- Enable and empower communities to do things for themselves
- Support people from different backgrounds to get on well together
- Build trust and pride
- Promote early intervention and prevention thus reducing reliance on public sector services, allowing resources to be used more effectively
- Improve services that are personalised and flexible

We seek to enable Councillors to empower residents to find creative solutions to the local issues that matter most to them and help create vibrant communities in which people feel happy, safe and proud.

This is not just about how Ward Councillors work, it applies to the whole organisation. As part of a strengths-based approach, Rotherham Council will:

- Place communities at the heart of everything we do
- Always ask and listen to ensure we are addressing the things that matter to residents
- Be innovative in how we involve residents so that it maximises their skills and knowledge
- Problem solve collaboratively with communities
- Be 'working with' our communities and not 'doing to' them
- Identify and support the motivation to act within communities
- Nurture relationships within neighbourhoods
- Build the capacity and resilience of the community and local community organisations

The Role and Expectation of Councillors

To work well in a strengths-based system, it is important that we define the expectations we have of Councillors and the specifics of the role they will play as community leaders over the next six years. These are defined by the Nolan Principles and our new definition of the 21st Century Rotherham Councillor.

The Nolan Principles

People who represent and work for the Council are expected to follow the seven Nolan Principles of Public Life. These help ensure decisions and the allocation of public money are fair, honest, and in the public interest and that high standards of behaviour from those serving the community are maintained.

1. **Selflessness** - Putting residents first and making decisions to benefit the community, not for personal gain.
2. **Integrity** - Doing the right thing and avoiding situations where personal interests could influence decisions.
3. **Objectivity** - Being fair and impartial and making decisions based on evidence and clear criteria, not favouritism or bias.
4. **Accountability** - Being open to scrutiny and prepared to explain decisions and actions to residents and others.
5. **Openness** - Being transparent and sharing information where possible so people understand how decisions are made.
6. **Honesty** - Telling the truth and declaring any interests that could affect their role.
7. **Leadership** – Promoting the organisation's values and encouraging others to follow them.

Ten Leadership Characteristics of the 21st Century Rotherham Councillor

In a rapidly changing world, with a range of highly specific local issues and opportunities to consider, the role of a local Councillor is always shifting. Increasingly, this has a greater emphasis on neighbourhood leadership, multi-agency partnership working and engaging and empowering communities.

In undertaking their Neighbourhood Leadership role, Councillors will be supported to challenge and influence service performance, ensuring that Council and partner activity is aligned with locally agreed ward priorities.

Councillors will have access to clear escalation routes where services are not responding in a timely or effective manner.

To reflect this evolution, Ward Councillors have been engaged to coproduce a definition of what a Rotherham Councillor should be for the duration of this strategy:

1. **Visible and Accessible -** Approachable, easy to contact, open to conversations, and responsive to the community. Present in the neighbourhood, known to residents and active locally.

2. **Trusted Listener -** Listening carefully to residents' experiences, needs and ideas before acting. Absorbing challenge whilst remaining neutral and fair.

3. **Advocate -** Speaking up for all residents' concerns and aspirations at every level of the Council, championing issues that matter locally and standing alongside residents when it counts.

4. **Empower -** Enabling residents and community organisations to be at the heart of decision making and providing opportunities for them to take control of the things that matter to them.

5. **Bridge Builder -** Providing the link between residents and the Council to ensure local voices shape decisions.

6. **Champion -** Promoting pride in place, strengthening community voice, and supporting local community organisations to thrive.

7. **Communicator -** Making sure residents are aware of things that are happening or may impact in their neighbourhood through multiple channels and explaining why decisions have been made.

8. **Responsible Representative -** Using power transparently and ethically on behalf of all residents and acting with integrity, fairness and accountability.

9. **Connector -** Developing effective relationships between Council services, partners, community groups and residents to achieve shared priorities and outcomes.

10. **Problem Solver -** Working with the community to resolve local issues by navigating systems, influencing decisions, mediation and unlocking solutions.

These provide the basis for this strategy but will change over time and will be reviewed within and at the end of the strategy period.

How we enable Neighbourhood Leadership

Supporting neighbourhood leadership will be delivered through six areas of action:

1. **Ward Priorities and Plans** - Providing evidence and insight to enable Ward Councillors to have information, to complement their local knowledge, to support leadership ambitions and plans.
2. **Devolved Neighbourhood Budgeting** – Optimising the local budgets which can be made available to Ward Councillors and residents to respond to local need.
3. **Leadership in Support of Council and Partner Services** – Developing new protocols and working arrangements to enable all Ward Councillors to be able to shape services specific to their area.
4. **Ongoing Support and Leadership Development –** Supporting Ward Councillors to evolve as leaders.
5. **The Role of Residents in Neighbourhood Leadership** – Supporting Ward Councillors to encourage residents to get proactively involved and have greater influence and agency in their area.

6. **Measuring Impact and Feeding Back -** Better measuring the impact of the Neighbourhood Leadership and Neighbourhood Coordination functions. Enabling more frequent and centrally collated resident feedback to provide further influence over the core functions of the Council.

Action Area 1: Ward Priorities and Plans

A foundation of Rotherham's approach to Neighbourhood Leadership, is the creation of ward priorities and plans. These provide the structure around which Ward Councillors deploy their role as, **bridge builders**, **champions**, **connectors** and **problem solvers**. A key outcome for the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy, is ensuring that these are given more visibility and prominence, bringing residents' needs and aspirations even closer to Council services.

Following their election, all Ward Councillors are supported to engage and work collaboratively with local residents and community groups, Council services and partners (such as the Police, NHS and Parish Councils), considering local evidence to identify ward priorities that are then developed into ward action plans.

The ward priorities and plans are reviewed and refreshed two years after the elections. This provides an important opportunity to review and target activity and support (across services) for the most deprived neighbourhoods and estates, where outcomes are poorest.

Common themes for ward priorities include:

- Community Safety & ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour)
- Streetscene & Public Realm
- Environment, Parks and Green spaces
- Transport, Roads and Road Safety
- Health & Wellbeing (including health inequalities).
- Children, Young People & Families
- Cost-of-living
- Economy and Employment
- Culture, Art and Heritage
- Building community resilience

Ward Priorities and Plans provide the basis for:

- Local collaborative partnership working
- Development of community projects and initiatives
- Investment - including the Councillors' devolved ward budgets and external funding
- Targeting existing resources
- Scrutinising the local delivery of services and escalating issues of concern
- Informing and influencing future Council decision making around policy, strategy and resource allocation

To evolve ward priorities and plans further, the Council will provide enhanced provision of local data and evidence, to ensure that plans can remain agile to ever changing local, regional and national priorities. In addition, new working protocols will support closer links between ward plans and Council service delivery.

Action Area 2: Devolved Ward budgets

Providing budgets over which Councillors and residents can have direct influence is a vital way in which we can support community power, giving people direct influence over positive activities in the places in which they live. This is critical to the role of Councillors as **advocates**, who **empower** and create trust with residents.

Currently, Councillors have access to several different devolved ward budgets which they can use to fund local community groups, projects, activities and additional services that can help tackle their ward priorities. These include:

- Community Leadership Fund: a small individual budget allocated to each Councillor to fund local community organisations or projects, provide additional activities or put on events.
- Ward Capital Budget: allocated to each ward and used to purchase physical assets or equipment.
- Ward Housing Budget: allocated to each ward for environmental improvements that directly benefit Council tenants.
- Community Infrastructure Levy: money generated from new developments that is allocated to wards that do not have a Parish Council. It is primarily used to reduce the demands a development could place on the neighbourhood.

Ward budget statements are published annually to illustrate how Councillors have invested in their neighbourhoods to tackle their ward priorities.

Councillors will continue to look for opportunities to maximise the potential of their devolved ward budgets through match or seed funding, **connecting** with other partners to achieve this. In addition, they will be supported to evolve the way in which residents are engaged and **empowered** in the decision-making process, testing and scaling new approaches to involvement and participatory budgeting.

As the strategy evolves the Council will work with partners to explore opportunities to pool a broad range of budgets at a ward level. Learning from our two Pride in Place areas, we will look at the potential for more significant resident representation in shaping the service budgets which are most relevant to them and their area.

Action Area 3: Leadership in Support of Council and Partner Services

A critical aspiration of this strategy is to ensure that the services that the Council and its partners deliver are more visible and locally impactful for residents. This will mean establishing new, stronger links between Ward Councillors and services which are delivered borough wide.

This is inherent in the role of a neighbourhood leader. As **trusted listeners** and **advocates**, the Council will enhance support for Councillors to act as **bridge builders** to the services. Achieving this will require the evolution of the existing neighbourhoods team and enhanced support for Councillors in their role as **connectors** to a wider local partnership.

Neighbourhoods Team

Rotherham Council already invests significant resource into its Neighbourhoods Team, who work alongside Ward Councillors to provide the interface between local issues and Council services. The team provides the day-to-day support which enables Councillors to act as neighbourhood leaders by:

- Identifying and tackling ward priorities via services, interventions, projects and initiatives.
- Allocating devolved ward budgets
- Co-ordinating collaborative and integrated partnership working across Council services, partners, Parish Councils, local communities and other key stakeholders
- Taking a strengths-based approach within communities, ensuring residents and local community organisations can get involved and have a say in the things that matter to them
- Using a variety of communication channels to ensure residents are kept informed about what is happening within their neighbourhood
- Advocating on their behalf with Council services and other partners and stakeholders and ensure a timely response if required
- Convening monthly ward briefing meetings which provide the time and space to have conversations with services and partners, plan ahead, reflect on progress, and take any necessary corrective action

Partnership Working

As Neighbourhood Leaders, Ward Councillors are **connectors**, spearheading the development of effective relationships between Council services, partners, community groups and residents to achieve shared priorities and outcomes.

This will be supported through further empowerment and recognition to ensure that Ward Councillors are provided with:

- Early notification of planned activity within a neighbourhood or ward
- Improved communication and joint working between Council services, partners and Ward Councillors
- Named contacts for neighbourhood-based services that are committed to getting involved
- The ability to identify and communicate incidents of silo-working

- Better forward planning and agreeing service delivery requirements
- Agency and support in taking a problem-solving approach
- Swift response from Council services and partners on issues raise by Councillors on behalf of their constituents.

Community Action Partnerships (CAPs) will continue to be delivered in all wards, with Ward Councillors providing a key role as **advocates** for residents. Focused on tackling community safety and ASB, they are led by the Ward Councillors and include representatives from South Yorkshire Police, Housing, Community Protection Unit & Environmental Health, Neighbourhoods and other services or agencies dependent on local or emerging issues.

Strengthening Service Accountability and Escalation

As **advocates**, **connectors** and **problem solvers** Councillors should have the ability to support and influence services in their locality. To enable this, services will be expected to provide greater accountability and responsiveness, committing to:

- Providing named service leads for each ward
- Attending relevant ward briefings and partnership meetings
- Responding to Councillor and neighbourhood coordinator enquiries within agreed timescales
- Demonstrating how service activity aligns with ward priorities

Neighbourhood Leadership will be embedded into a clear escalation framework, whereby Ward Councillors will be able to address issues where services are not responding adequately.

Action Area 4: Ongoing Support and Leadership Development

To assume the ten attributes of the 21st Century Rotherham Councillor, Councillors will need support. This will include a mix of day-to-day resource through the Neighbourhoods Team and specific training and development for Councillors, to help them broaden the focus of their day-to-day work.

New ways of working will be developed and promoted across the Council, partners and communities. This enhanced support for Ward Councillors in their neighbourhood leadership role will help the Council to become more responsive to the needs of residents, build more cohesive communities and continue to build trust.

Rotherham's Ward Councillors will have access to any development opportunities and support they may need to work as leaders in their neighbourhoods, as will the Neighbourhoods Team that provides their primary support in that role.

Neighbourhood Coordination

Key to the implementation of this strategy is the evolution of the Council's Neighbourhood Coordination function. This requires us to create a 'team-mentality' where Ward Councillors work closely with Neighbourhood Coordinators. The Neighbourhood Coordinators themselves, form a team which will provide collective support for Councillors. This includes:

- Pairing of wards that have a synergy with one another which benefit from one full-time Neighbourhood Co-ordinator covering both.
- Understanding likely demands and issues across neighbourhoods within wards, targeting resource to respond to this.
- Matching existing skills and knowledge with priorities and issues faced in various wards.
- Spreading knowledge, experience and good practice across all wards.

To ensure consistency and quality across the borough, the Council will establish a clear framework for neighbourhood working, including defined standards for the role of Neighbourhood Coordinators, expectations around responsiveness and delivery, and regular performance oversight.

Within the strategy period, the 2028 local elections will be used to reallocate Neighbourhood Coordinators to new wards to ensure Councillors have access to new skills and perspectives. This will be repeated in future electoral cycles.

This approach will be supported by a borough-wide competency framework and consistent management oversight to ensure that all wards benefit from a high-quality and proactive neighbourhood coordination function.

Member Support and Development

Through the evolution of the existing member support and development programme, Ward Councillors will be given access to support aligned with the characteristics of the 21st Century Rotherham Councillor. This will include specific training to understand the breadth of Council services, development of facilitation skills and targeted leadership coaching where this is required.

Action Area 5: The Role of Residents in Neighbourhood Leadership

A strength-based model of neighbourhood leadership is dependent upon providing for communities to get involved in things that matter to them. This recognises residents themselves as important assets in their neighbourhoods, and that creating greater involvement will be good for the Council and the borough.

Part of the identified role of the 21st Century Rotherham Councillor is to **communicate, connect** and **empower** but it also needs residents to get proactively involved - providing information and ideas, co-producing solutions and seizing the opportunity to do things for themselves thus becoming more resilient.

Communicate

Councillors will continually promote their Neighbourhood Leadership role to increase understanding and will endeavour to keep residents informed about how ward priorities are being addressed. This is critical to Councillors remaining **visible and accessible** and currently takes place through several channels, including:

- Monthly ward e-bulletins
- Social media
- Ward webpages
- Traditional media - such as printed newsletters, flyers, posters and press releases.

As means of communication evolve, Councillors will be supported to engage with new technology and media.

Connect

Councillors will provide regular opportunities for residents and community organisations to raise issues, have their say and get to be more involved in things that are important to them. They will also endeavour to bring people together to celebrate and have fun! This currently takes several forms, including:

- Surgeries and submitting casework
- Attending community or Parish Council meetings
- Drop-in sessions
- Walkabouts
- Online surveys
- Public meetings
- Community events

As the strategy is delivered, Councillors, supported by Neighbourhood Coordinators, will be enabled to target engagement in the ways which are most effective in their wards, creating **responsible representation**.

Empower

Councillors will continue to create an environment of trust that will provide the space for communities to develop, grow and increase in confidence so that they can take

the lead within their own neighbourhoods thus identifying issues early and having the ability to respond quickly. Councillors will:

- Support ideas - encourage community-led projects and give people confidence to try new things, and scale this where it works.
- Remove barriers - help with allocations of ward budgets funding, seeking out permissions or providing advice.
- Share skills and knowledge – link in with Council services or partners and signpost to training and support.
- Champion local aspirations - Speak up for local priorities and help communities influence Council decisions.

Action Area 6: Measuring Impact and Feeding Back

Strong Neighbourhood Leaders will be **problem solvers**, which will require Ward Councillors to be agile to respond to the changing priorities of residents and the external pressure which impacts on their daily lives. To do this, they will need a better understanding of what is working well and stronger evidence to complement the information and insight they collect as **trusted listeners**.

This strategy seeks to create a supportive environment where Councillors can assess their own performance against the attributes of the 21st Century Rotherham Councillor.

Going forward the Ward Plans will evolve to have more robust quantitative and qualitative performance indicators that will illustrate the impact that local action is having within the ward and neighbourhoods. These will be targeted, dependent on the nature of the individual ward priorities but could include:

- Feedback from residents on:
  - influence and sense of control
  - levels of trust
  - how they feel about the area
  - what is going well or not
  - specific projects and initiatives
- Data – Crime, ASB, Health, Local Economy, Participation, Young People.
- Levels of reporting or taking up of a service
- Outcomes from Casework
- Attendance figures for events and/or subscription figures for ward e-bulletins
- Ward budget summaries

Progress against the ward priorities will be reflected back to residents through various communication channels, such as the ward e-bulletin, the publication of annual basis performance figures and public reports.

As **advocates**, **champions** and **responsible representatives**, Ward Councillors will also have a role (supported by Neighbourhood Coordinators) to provide vital local information and sentiment into the Council, ensuring services and activities are as responsive as possible to local needs and aspirations.

Appendix 2

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy	
Directorate: Policy, Strategy and Engagement	**Service area:** Neighbourhoods
Lead person: Martin Hughes	**Contact:** martin.hughes@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: [X] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
the new Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy. This replaces the previous Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy which expired in 2025. The new strategy runs for six years to include the 2032 local elections and is intended to be flexible, supporting agility amongst members and officers. It deals specifically with the role of ward councillors as neighbourhood leaders, building on the strong foundations which have been delivered over the last seven years. The strategy sets out new aspirations for ward councillors to play an enhanced role in bringing residents closer to council services, enabling more

responsive and locally impactful delivery. This aligns with local, regional and national policy ambition to create stronger neighbourhood working.

A complementary strategy (the new Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy) will be presented to cabinet in December 2026. This will deal with broader issues of neighbourhood working, including how we work with external partners, developing direct strategies and plans which impact upon residents.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?	X	
Could the proposal affect service users?	X	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		X

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6.**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4.**

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.**

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

How have you considered equality and diversity?

The strategy is an evolution from the previous Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy (2018-2025), providing an opportunity to revisit previous equality assessments and ensuring alignment with the new Inclusion Strategy.

The strategy has been designed specifically to deliver against the Inclusion Strategy themes of Working Together and Responsive Services, supporting councillors to play an enhances role in the coproduction of services and ensuring that services are available and adaptive to a broader cohort of residents and communities.

Key findings

The Equality Screening Assessment produced in support of the precursor to this strategy (The Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy Refresh, November 2022) identified that "*Whilst there were some processes in place to involve and engage with communities with protected characteristics (through ward planning, specific issue-based conversations and support local community organisations) it was neither consistent, recorded or measured."*

In reviewing the activities supporting equalities in relation to the production of this strategy, it is noted that significant progress has been made in and driving greater consistency and depth in the approach. The delivery of the 2018-2025 Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy and the ongoing commitment embedded in this strategy (2026-2031) are embodied through the following activities.

Ward Priorities and Plans – Each ward and councillor is supported within ward profiles which provide demographic and local service data to inform ward priorities. This includes consideration of issues of diversity and inclusion, including groups with protected characteristics, ensuring that they are considered and have an active role their neighbourhoods and decision making.

Ward Budgets - Each councillor is provided with specific devolved budgets to support their activities. Neighbourhood Coordinators support members, to ensure that equality is given full consideration of diversity is included in the allocation of ward budgets.

Ongoing Engagement – Neighbourhood Coordinators work closely with local VCS to ensure there are ongoing mechanisms for communities with protected characteristics to have conversations with councillors and service providers to inform the delivery of

accessible and responsive services that meet diverse needs.
Actions As work commences on the Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy, there will be further engagement (with residents and partners) which will provide additional opportunities to assess equalities performance. This will ensure that further mitigations are considered and can inform the implementation of the Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy. Given that this is part of a suite of strategies and that the Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy, will have a more direct focus on the needs of residents and specific communities, it is suggested that a single Equalities Assessment (Part B) is completed to accompany the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy in December 2026. Within the strategy Action Area 4 commits 'Ongoing Support and Leadership Development'. It is proposed that this will include on going support for all members to increased their understanding and practice in terms of diverse. This will be a critical component of a role as 'Respectful Representatives' as a critical part of them being Neighbourhood Leaders.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	1st September 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	11th November 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Martin Hughes Head of Neighbourhoods

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Chris Paddock	Interim Director Policy Strategy and Engagement	4th June 2026

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	04/06/26

Report title and date	Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy 4th June 2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Scheduled Report date – 6th July 2026 Scheduled date for publication – 22nd June 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	4th June 2026

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Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None	None	NA	NA	None
Emissions from transport?	Decrease	None	A number of ward priorities and plans have specific references to active travel projects that would positively contribute to reduce emissions from transport	N/A	Enhanced monitoring of the impact associated with this strategy and the accompanying Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy will provide more localised consideration of local transport projects
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Unknown	None	As Neighbourhood Leaders, ward councillors will be supported to bring residents closer to local services. In due course, this may include projects and new practices which enable residents and communities to think about the waste they produce and engagement in projects which support a more sustainable Rotherham.	NA	As and when projects develop, enhanced local monitoring and collaboration with others services will enable an understanding.

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None	NA	None	NA	None
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None	NA	Given the size of ward budgets it is unlikely that this strategy specifically will support any development.	NA	None
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Unknown	None	A number of ward priorities and plans have specific references to tree planting and improving air quality projects that would assist with carbon capture.	N/A	Enhanced monitoring of the impact associated with this strategy and the accompanying Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy will provide more localised consideration of of carbon capture.
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields: None					

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

The Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy will not pose any risk to Rotherham's plans in relation to climate crisis. The proposed activities offer an opportunity for enhanced dialogue on climate and nature and possible innovation in support of 'net -zero neighbourhood' objectives.

Neighbourhood Leadership and the broader ambition of bring residents closer to services and decision making could potentially have wide ranging benefits in supporting resilience and adaptation. Through collaboration, ward councillors and Neighbourhood Coordinators can play an active role in mitigating the disproportionality of climate impact, supporting diverse groups and those with protected characteristics to over come impacts increased heatwave events.

The strategy promotes enhanced communication which can be used both to promote new behaviours as well as to support residents and communities in the event of extreme heat events. Ward councillors can be supported to better understand impacts of climate within their locality which can in turn, ensure that this is given greater prominence in their development of ward plans and allocation of ward budgets.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:
Aside from the carbon associated with publishing and storing the strategy, there will be no climate impact. Any impact from local projects supported through ward budgets will be limited given the funding available and the types of projects which tend to be delivered. It is not considered necessary to plan any specific mitigation. Should the scale of projects grow, this may need to be revisited on a case by case basis.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Martin Hughes Click or tap here to enter text. Head of Neighbourhoods Neighbourhoods Policy, Strategy and Engagement
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	*NA*
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	*NA*
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 655 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title
Children and Young People's Service School Capital Programme Update

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Nicola Curley – Executive Director, Children & Young Peoples Service

Report Author(s)
Helen Sweaton
helen.sweaton@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report provides an update on key achievements across the Children, Young People's and Families Service (CYPS) School Capital Programme for 2025/2026

The report also requests approval of the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2026/2027 following the confirmation of the Department for Education (DfE) capital funding allocation.

Recommendations

That Cabinet

1. Note the achievements in the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2025/2026

2. Approve the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2026/2027.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Part A Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 2 Part B Equality Analysis Form
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Review

Background Papers

Agenda item - Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) Sufficiency Strategy 2026-2029 - Rotherham Council – 9th February 2026

SEND Sufficiency and Aspire Pupil Referral Unit - 7th July 2025

High Needs / Safety Valve Programme - 2023/24 - 30th July 2024

SEND Sufficiency Phase 4 update report – 19th June 2023

Safety Valve Cabinet annual update report - 24th April 2023

SEND Sufficiency Phase 4 Cabinet paper - October 2022

SEND Sufficiency Phase 3 Cabinet Report - November 2020

SEND Sufficiency Phase 2 Cabinet Report May 2019

SEND Sufficiency Phase 1 Cabinet Report – February 2018

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Children and Young People's Service Schools Capital Programme Update

1. Background

1.1 The Children & Young People's Service (CYPS) School Capital Programme aims to:

- Improve the condition of the Local Authority Maintained School Estate.
- Provide sufficiency of places across all state funded mainstream schools in Rotherham
- Provide sufficiency of places for Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) pupils across all state funded mainstream and special schools in Rotherham

1.2 The report provides a comprehensive update in respect of the School Capital Programme following previous updates to Cabinet regarding the implementation of the SEND Sufficiency programme, delivery of the School Accessibility Capital Funding Programme and the Safety Valve programme across both mainstream and special schools.

1.3 The report provides an update on the key capital achievements across the 2025/2026 financial year and details the proposed commitments for the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2026/2027 following the confirmation of the Department for Education (DfE) capital funding allocation.

1.4 **Condition Works maintained schools**

1.4.1 The 2025/2026 programme was supported by a grant of £719,080 by the DfE. This supports condition works across the 16 Local Authority Maintained Primary schools, 3 Nursery Schools and the Aspire Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).

1.4.2 Schemes are identified following the completion of condition reports by Property and Facilities Services, with regular support provided by each school's Building Officer. Schemes are completed on a rolling cycle based on priority and the resources available.

1.4.3 Key Achievements 2025/2026:

School	**Condition Works**	**Financial Value**
Broom Valley School	Concrete window repairs - phase 2 (north)	£128,197
Blackburn Primary	Basement damp/water	£10,000
Eastwood Village	Latent defects	£150,399
Herringthorpe J&I	Extraction system	£24,906
Herringthorpe Primary	Access control to security gates & security improvements to the vehicle access / pedestrian gate	£25,024
Rawmarsh Aspire	Roofing works	£122,214
Rawmarsh Rosehill	Phase 2 fencing and repointing	£91,596

Todwick Primary	Asbestos removal to the swimming pool prior to works	£29,253

1.5 **Sufficiency of places in mainstream schools**

1.5.1 There is a statutory duty on Local Authorities under the requirements of the Education Act 1996 to ensure the sufficiency of school places in their area.

1.5.2 Local Authorities receive Basic Need Capital funding from the DfE to create additional mainstream school places. The funding received is based on a DfE calculation which bridges the gap between the current places available and future demand. This is captured through the annual Schools' Capacity Forecasts and Additional Places (SCAP) survey.

1.5.3 Key Achievements 2025/2026:

As approved by Cabinet in December 2023 and in line with the continued increase of dwellings on the Waverley estate there was a requirement to increase the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at Waverley Junior Academy to provide 210 additional places. As the requirements were related to an increase in new build homes within the school catchment, the scheme was funded by private sector contributions from the developer through a Section 106 agreement. The additional classroom space was completed and opened in September 2025 in line with the 2025/2026 academic year.

1.6 **SEND Sufficiency**

1.6.1 The 2025/2026 programme was supported by a High Needs Capital Allocation grant of £3.7m by the DfE.

1.6.2 Key Achievements:

SEND Sufficiency	**Value**
Schools' Accessibility - Mainstream Small Grants Programme and Individual Adaptations	£691,000
Schools' Accessibility - Special Schools	£988,000
Resource Provision Development	£587,000
Special School Growth and Alternative Provision	£542,000

The above table represents actual spend across 2025/2026. Any remaining funding is committed to projects that are being delivered across both 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

1.6.3 2025/2026 was the last year of the Safety Valve Agreement. This included a further round of accessibility small grants which are available through an application, short-listing, and award process. 36 schools have been successful in receiving a grant across the Safety Valve period. The Accessibility small grants programme enables schools to make capital adaptations and improve access to the curriculum for SEND learners, ensuring more pupils are able to be educated in local mainstream schools.

1.6.4 The capital completion of a number of new resource provisions on mainstream sites was finalised in year with Thurcroft Junior Academy, Winterhill and Maltby Manor Academy provisions opening successfully. A resource provision is attached to a mainstream school providing specialist therapeutic input and support for pupils with a specific SEND need type. Pupils access support from the resource provision based on their individual need whilst also accessing mainstream classes and curriculum

1.6.5 Investment in Special Schools to increase capacity continued in 2025/2026 with this including a capital grant to install modular classrooms at Kelford School and the development of a second site of Elements Academy. In total this resulted in an increase of 54 special school places.

1.6.6 As previously agreed at Cabinet, a programme of improving works has commenced across the three sites occupied by the Aspire Pupil Referral Unit. This has included works to improve accessibility, and the curriculum offer at Catcliffe and Hutton Park. Further works are planned in 2026/2027 at the main Rawmarsh site.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Following confirmation on grant funding from the DfE, CYPS are now in a position to present and seek approval for the School Capital Programme for 2026/2027.

2.2 Condition Works – Local Authority Maintained Schools

2.2.1 The 2026/2027 programme is supported by an annual capital grant of £728,079 by the DfE and carry forward funding from previous years. This supports condition works across the Local Authority Maintained Schools.

2.2.2 The priority schemes identified for delivery in 2026/2027 are set out below. Additional schemes may be brought forward during the year, subject to the availability of resources and agreement of priorities. While the schemes listed have been identified as priorities for 2026/2027, the nature of this programme means that more urgent projects may arise, particularly where required to ensure schools remain safe, dry, and warm. Such projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may result in the re-prioritisation and postponement of some listed schemes in order to remain within the overall approved budget.

2.2.3

Site	Work description	Estimated Value £
Blackburn Primary	Upgrade to toilet blocks	160,000
Broom Valley Primary	Heating replacement (phased over 2 years)	275,000
Rawmarsh Thorogate	Fire alarm upgrade	75,000
Badsley Moor Primary	Heating upgrade phase 2	236,000

Badsley Moor Primary	Flat roof works	108,800
Rawmarsh Rosehill Junior	Flat roofing works	100,000
Rockingham Junior & Infants	Replace hot water cylinders	75,000
Sitwell Infants	Replacement of 3 boilers including heat emitters	100,000
Wales Primary - Nursery	Modular roof repairs	50,000
Eastwood Village Primary	Deck Waterproofing works	180,000
Fixed wire testing	Electrical Installation Condition reports	15,000
TBC	Urgent Minor Works	75,000

2.3 **Sufficiency of places in mainstream schools:**

2.3.1 The latest Schools' Capacity Forecasts and Additional Places (SCAP) for Rotherham has not identified any immediate concerns in discharging the Statutory Duty to offer a mainstream school place to every child that requires one. As such, there are no current planned mainstream school expansions in 2026/2027.

2.3.2 RMBC has a 5-year profile of satisfying more than 90% of parental first preferences for entry to primary and secondary school education on the national offer day of 16 April annually. The percentage of pupils who are allocated one of their three preferences of a school is above the national average, as verified by the DfE school place provision scorecard for Rotherham.

2.4 **SEND Sufficiency:**

2.4.1 The 2026/2027 programme is supported by a High Needs Capital Allocation grant of £3.4m by the DfE.

2.4.2 The new SEND Sufficiency Strategy was approved by Cabinet in February 2026. The Strategy shows the anticipated demand for SEND provision across both mainstream and special schools until 2030.

2.4.3 The SEND Sufficiency priorities identified for 2026-2027 are shown in the table below:

SEND Sufficiency	**Value**
Schools' Accessibility - Mainstream Small Grants Programme and Individual Adaptations	£1,000,000
Schools' Accessibility - Special Schools	£1,000,000
Inclusion Base Development	£750,000
Special School Growth and Alternative Provision	£500,000

The remaining funding (£150,000) is currently being held as a programme contingency.

2.4.4 Further rounds of Schools Accessibility Mainstream Small Grants have been included in the year 1 delivery plan of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy. The funding round will be open to schools in Summer Term 2026. Further capital funding will be available to support improved access to the curriculum in special schools, focusing on cohorts of pupils where there is a current shortfall of places due to the increase in demand for specialist provision.

2.4.5 From 2026/2027, capital planning will be aligned to the SEND Reforms as detailed in the DfE's White Paper *'Every Child Achieving and Thriving'.* The Local Authority is required to submit a SEND Reform Plan which shows how capital funding will be used to support mainstream inclusion including the development of Inclusion Bases. A future Cabinet paper will detail the local arrangements for the implementation of the SEND Reforms.

2.5 **Newman School:**

2.5.1 As outlined to Cabinet in March 2026 following a request from the DfE, the Council has become the grant recipient of Strategic School Improvement Capital Budget (SSICB) funding. This is following the decision of the DfE to re-broker the existing Multi Academy Trust arrangements at Newman and bring in another Trust to run the school.

2.5.2 The capital works will provide a new build block on the main Whiston site and a refurbishment of the school's listed corridor. A contractor has been secured for the works which are scheduled across 2026/2027 and early 2027/2028.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The development of a School Capital Programme supports the Local Authority in meeting its statutory duties to improve the condition of the local authority–maintained school estate, to assess requirements and ensure sufficient mainstream school places, and provide adequate capacity for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) across both mainstream and special schools. This approach enables the effective and appropriate use of Schools' Capital Allocations for both Basic Need and High Needs Capital.

3.2 Not creating a School Capital Programme would mean the Local Authority does not meet the statutory duties to improve the condition of the Local Authority Maintained School Estate, to assess requirements and ensure sufficient places in mainstream schools, and ensure sufficient places for SEND pupils across both mainstream and special schools. This would not demonstrate appropriate use of the School Capital Allocations for Basic Need and High Needs Capital.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Consultation with key stakeholders including schools, parents, carers, and the DfE is included at all stages of development of capital proposals.

4.2 Key updates have been provided to Schools' Forum, school leaders' forums, and associated partners including SEND Partnership Board.

4.3 A series of listening events are held with Parents and Carers across key areas of development as part of the wider SEND partnership. Previous listening events have included development of Newman School and longer term SEND Sufficiency planning.

4.4 SEND Sufficiency updates including performance data are provided to the Improving Lives Select Commission for scrutiny.

4.5 Regular updates on the CYPS Capital Programme are provided to the RMBC Capital Programme and Monitoring Board.

5 Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1
- SEND Sufficiency Strategy approval Cabinet - February 2026
- Local Authority notification of Schools Capital Allocations for Basic Need and High Needs Capital – April 2026
- Schools' Capital Programme – April 2026 - March 2027
- Schools' Capital Approval and Update – Cabinet July 2026

5.2 The School Capital Programme completes annual returns to the DfE as part of grant conditions detailing specific schemes and progress. Regular reporting into the corporate Capital Programme and Monitoring Board and CYPS Directorate Leadership provides assurance against progress for all planned schemes.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications:

6.1 All procurement related activity referred to in this report has or will be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023) dependent on the route to market as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

6.2 The following paragraphs detail the financial implications of the development of the Schools Capital Programme for 2026/2027.

6.3 **Finance – Capital implications**

6.3.1 The CYPS Schools' Capital Programme for 2026/2027 will be funded from confirmed DfE capital grant allocations and committed carry forward resources from previous years where applicable, as follows:

- **School Condition Allocation (SCA – Maintained Schools)** of £0.728m to address condition priorities across the maintained school estate and £0.951m committed carry forward resources from previous years (scheme slippage).

- **High Needs Capital Allocation** of £3.4m to support SEND sufficiency across mainstream and special school provision and:

- **Basic Need Capital Funding** of £0.152m, where applicable, to support sufficiency of mainstream school places across the borough.

6.3.2 The Capital Programme has been formulated to ensure that planned scheme commitments for 2026/2027 are deliverable within the overall level of capital funding available. Detailed scheme costs will be developed and approved in line with the Council's capital governance arrangements, with expenditure monitored through the Capital Programme and Monitoring Board.

6.3.3 Where urgent or unplanned capital requirements arise during the year, schemes may be re-prioritised to ensure that total expenditure remains within the approved capital funding envelope. No additional unsupported borrowing is required to deliver the programme

6.4 **Finance – Revenue implications**

6.4.1 There are no direct revenue implications arising from the proposed Schools' Capital Programme for 2026/2027, as all expenditure is funded from external capital grant resources.

6.4.2 Ongoing repairs, maintenance, and operational costs associated with completed schemes will be met by schools from their delegated revenue budgets in accordance with existing responsibilities. The programme therefore places no additional pressure on the Council's revenue budget.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The proposed Schools' Capital Programme for 2026/2027 supports the Council in the discharge of its statutory duties under the Education Act 1996 to ensure the sufficiency of school places within its area, including both mainstream and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision. The delivery of appropriate school places, including specialist provision, is also integral to the Council's responsibilities under the Children and Families Act 2014 in relation to children and young people with SEND.

7.2 The programme is funded through a combination of DfE capital grants, including School Condition Allocation, Basic Need and High Needs Capital funding. These funding streams are subject to specific grant conditions which require that the funding is applied for eligible capital purposes and in accordance with the objectives for which it has been allocated. The Council should ensure that all expenditure complies with those conditions and that appropriate monitoring and reporting arrangements are in place, including returns to the DfE.

7.3 While the report sets out how at programme level the Council complies with its statutory duties as set out above, at individual project level there will be further legal implications which include compliance with relevant Procurement legislation, ensuring that robust contractual arrangements are in place and ensuring that sufficient contract and project management controls are implemented.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no foreseen HR implications based on the details included in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Additional Mainstream and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) places created within the Borough give more children and young people the opportunity to access high quality provision to meet their educational needs and in line with parental wishes.

9.2 Key considerations are referenced within the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Both an Initial Equality Screening Assessment and an Equality Analysis have been completed and are attached as Appendices 1 and 2.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A Climate Impact Assessment has been attached as Appendix 3.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Ongoing updates are provided to key stakeholders including parent/carers forum, health leaders, school leaders, schools' forum, and other associated stakeholders.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are risks associated with individual schemes being overspent due to a variety of factors including; rising construction costs, supply chain volatility, and design challenges. There are risks of programme delay particularly for larger more complex schemes that require extended implementation times to complete statutory permissions and procurement.

13.2 Mitigations are provided through early engagement with schools and stakeholders to develop a clear design and scope, assessment of available compliant procurement routes and utilisation of the project contingency where necessary. Where individual schemes are at risk of being delayed these will be reported to the CYPS Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) and the Capital Programme and Monitoring Board in line with existing Governance processes.

14. Accountable Officers

Helen Sweaton Service Director Commissioning, Performance and Quality.
Children and Young People's Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	17/06/26
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	11/06/26
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	10/06/26

Report Author: Mark Cummins, Transformation Lead
Mark.Cummins@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

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PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: CYPS Schools Capital Programme	
Directorate: CYPS	**Service area:** Education and Inclusion
Lead person: Mark Cummins	**Contact:** mark.cummins@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The equalities screening forms part of the Cabinet update on the proposed CYPS Schools Capital Programme for 2026-2027

3. Relevance to equality and diversity
All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? *(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)*		x
Could the proposal affect service users? *(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)*	x	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? *(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)*		x
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? *(It is important that the Council is transparent, and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)*		×
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)*		x
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)*		×

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above, please complete **sections 5 and 6.**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above, please complete **section 4.**

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity
If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be

considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.**

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

Yes, through analysing the volume and location of school places required for pupils across both mainstream and special schools.

- **Key findings**

Parents/Carers and Young people will benefit from the proposed CYPS Schools Capital Programme as they will be able to access improved school provision. Where any new places are created for SEND this will allow more pupils to be able to access education provision that meets their needs in their local communities.

- **Actions**

Complete Part B Equalities Impact Analysis.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	August 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	October 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Mark Cummins Transformation Lead

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Niall Devlin	Assistant Director Inclusion and Education	April 2026
Helen Sweaton	Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Quality	April 2026
Cary-Anne Sykes	Head of Service - SEND	April 2026

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	01/04/2026
Report title and date	CYPS Schools Capital Programme
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	08/07/2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	01/05/2026

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: CYPS Schools Capital Programme	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): May 2026	
Directorate: CYPS	**Service area:** Education and Inclusion
Lead Manager: Mark Cummins	**Contact number:** **01709 807123**
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (e.g. service user, managers, service specialist)**
Niall Devlin	RMBC	Director Education and Inclusion
Helen Sweaton	RMBC	Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion
Cary-Anne Sykes	RMBC	Head of Service - SEND
SEND Partnership Board	Multi-agency Strategic Board	

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)
This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, other groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The Local Authority has a duty to maintain a sufficiency of school places within the Borough for the projected number of children requiring one, this includes for pupils with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The Council also has a responsibility to maintain the condition of the Local Authority School Estate.

The intended outcome is that more children can attend a local school within their community and that the building they access are in an appropriate condition for the delivery of education.

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

Engagement is completed with key stakeholders including individual schools, parents, carers and young people. Engagement varies based on the individual scheme and the capital requirements.

As included in the Rotherham SEND Strategy (My Life, My Rights 2024-2029). Rotherham has 57,453 children aged under 18 representing 21.7% of the local population (ONS, mid 2020). 23% of children live in low-income. There are 45,763 children and young people attending Rotherham's schools as at January 2024 School Census. This includes 465 children in a maintained nursery school, 24,661 pupils in primary schools, 19,303 pupils in secondary schools, 1,194 pupils in special schools and 140 pupils in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of? Information about protected characteristics is limited as only information necessary for the admission of children to a school is collated- to request additional information in relation to protected characteristics is not lawful. Information on the number of pupils accessing education provision is recorded and monitored to support with school planning arrangements.	
What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics? Ongoing monitoring of the number of children able to access their local school.	
Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Regular engagement is undertaken on CYPS School Capital projects. This includes: Academy Schools Local Authority maintained schools Staff Elected members Local residents Parent/carer forum Parents/children who will be attending the schools / settings Neighbouring schools across the authority Wider community engagement Transport Ofsted DfE Schools Forum Education Consultative Committee Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership Consultation takes place in a variety of formats including formal engagement on specific capital schemes, forums and meetings to shape local Strategy and via voice and influence groups for parents/carers and young people. The key outcomes of the engagement undertaken to date aligns to the Council's statutory responsibility to: • Improve the condition of the Local Authority Maintained School Estate • Provide sufficiency of places in mainstream schools

	• Provide sufficiency of places for SEND pupils across both mainstream and special schools
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Staff in both LA and schools/settings have been involved (as above) and where necessary / appropriate this has also included involvement from wider staffing including RMBC HR, legal, Finance, Asset Management, planning and RMBC Education and Inclusion

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)
How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance) The proposals ensure that there are sufficient capital programmes to ensure that there are enough school places available locally. The proposals also ensure that the condition of the local authority school estate is maintained to an appropriate standard. Local schools provide education provision including for Early Years, mainstream, Special Educational Needs and Post 16.
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? No
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? Yes – the proposals will ensure that more pupils are able to access local schools.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

Improved community relations as more families are able to access education provision locally.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: CYPS Schools Capital Programme Update
Directorate and service area: CYPS. Commissioning, Performance and Quality
Lead Manager: Mark Cummins
Summary of findings:
The report screens the CYPS Schools Capital Programme for 2026/2027

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Seek Cabinet approval for implementation of the Schools Capital Programme for 2026/2027	A, D, S, GR, RE,	**July 2026**

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Niall Devlin	Assistant Director Education and Inclusion	May 2026
Helen Sweaton	Joint Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Quality	May 2026
Cllr Victoria Cusworth	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	May 2026

7. Publishing	
The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date Equality Analysis completed	May 2026
Report title and date	CYPS Schools Capital Programme
Date report sent for publication	June 2026
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	May 2026

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Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None	Emissions will remain at similar levels to current across the borough.	Emissions overall will remain at similar levels as pupils will remain in Rotherham.	Adaptations to existing buildings / extensions to existing buildings to create the additional capacity across the borough will be completed to current building code and overseen by Asset Management Service.	The local governing bodies will also hold oversight of the establishment and running of the new provisions.
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	There may be some variations to journey travel for children with SEND to enable them to attend the new provisions. Some trip lengths may increase, others decrease. Creating additional school places should mean more pupils are able to be educated in their local communities	Pupils travel to school in line with their EHCP / travel to school plan. Any changes to school placement are determined via the EHCP process / placement in a SEND resource and transport implications considered at that point.	Mitigating measures are considered via individual pupils' travel to school plan and monitored by the Transport team.	Transport to school arrangements are kept under review by the Corporate Transport Unit. Ongoing monitoring / assessment by Transport Unit.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None	There will be no change in the overall amount of waste generated by schools overall compared to present. Construction wastes are considered a	Waste levels across the borough will remain at similar levels to present.	Schools have their own waste management processes: as 'relevant non-domestic premises' they are required to separate their food,	Impact will be monitored by the school governing body and LA for maintained schools.

		carbon impact of construction.		recycling and residual waste into separate collection streams, by Simpler Recycling regulations.	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Unknown	The CYPS Capital Programme will be a mixture of repurposed existing space in existing school buildings, small extensions to existing buildings and condition related works, designed to comply with Building Regulations.	Where a school's Governing Body, opposed to the Council is leading delivery of capital works, carbon emissions will be outside the scope of the Council's organisation-level carbon accounting.	Repurposing space in existing school buildings, using small extensions and condition-based works to increase SEND capacity mitigates carbon emissions at the design stage (which can offer proportionally greater carbon savings than e.g., choosing lower-carbon materials, according in a mitigation hierarchy – see *e.g.*, University of Columbia, 2021).	Carbon emissions from construction are estimated from total, annual procurement spend on construction and related works. As a high-level reporting category, spend on 'Buildings and Construction' was the Council's greatest source of consumption-based emissions in 2025/25, at almost 20,000 tCO_2e, or nearly a quarter of all such emissions (RMBC, 2026).
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:					

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? As well as contributing to resilience across the schools estate through condition-related works and by avoiding overcrowding in classrooms, ensuring sufficiency of SEND provision in Rotherham schools is an important condition in support of positive educational outcomes for SEND pupils, which may have benefits for their personal resilience and adaptive capacity, in the longer term.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Mark Cummins SEND Project Transformation Lead Commissioning and Performance Children and Young People's Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	• University of Columbia. 2021. *Greenhouse gas mitigation hierarchy*. In: *Plan 2030*. [Online]. [Accessed 18 May 2026]. Available from: https://sustainable.columbia.edu/content/greenhouse-gas-mitigation-hierarchy. • Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. 2026. *Climate Emergency Annual Report 2026, Appendix 5: Climate Change Data Summary*. Cabinet 13 April 2026. [Online]. [Accessed 18 May 2026]. Available from: https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/documents/s157642/Appendix%205%20-%20Climate%20Change%20Data%20Summary.pdf.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 645 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title
Educational Psychology Service – New model of delivery

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Nicola Curley, Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)
Niall Devlin – Service Director, Education & Inclusion
Niall.devlin@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
This report provides Cabinet with an overview of the revised Educational Psychology Service (EPS) delivery model, setting out how the service will operate in practice following approval of the associated recurrent investment through the 2026/27 budget.

Members have previously considered and approved the investment. This report provides implementation-level detail and assurance around moving to the new model.

The new approach is designed to:

- Make sure the Council meets its legal duties on time.
- Speed up advice for Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments.
- Give schools more early help so issues do not escalate.
- Reduce the need to rely on temporary agency staff.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the revised Educational Psychology Service delivery model.

2. Note the approach to implementation, governance and assurance arrangements.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms
Appendix 2 Part A – Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 3 Part B – Equality Analysis Form
Appendix 4 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Schools White Paper: Every child achieving and thriving (Feb 2026)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Educational Psychology Service – New model of delivery

1. Background

1.1 The new delivery model builds on the significant work by the Rotherham Local Area SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) partnership since the Area SEND inspection in 2024. The new delivery model enables the Educational Psychology Service to meet the growing complex needs in a different way.

1.2 This has put pressure on the whole system, including schools, health services, and specialist provision. Educational psychologists have a vital role in improving learning, communication, and emotional well-being for children and young people. They work collaboratively with students, parents, and educators to:

- Assess learning difficulties (e.g., dyslexia), behavioural challenges (e.g. Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder - ADHD), and developmental disorders (e.g., autism).
- Develop tailored interventions and provide consultation and training.
- Support schools during critical incidents and contribute to research and systemic improvement.

1.3 Rotherham's Educational Psychology Service (EPS) delivers both statutory services (including psychological advice for Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans) and a traded offer to schools and other providers. Statutory work is highly resource-intensive, and each EHC assessment and advice typically requires 2.5 days of educational psychology time. The traded work is managed through service level agreements with educational settings and other providers.

1.4 Delays in Educational Psychology (EP) advice can have significant consequences. When advice is not provided promptly, children and young people may miss out on having their needs accurately identified. Schools are left without the resources, strategies, and specialist knowledge they need to provide effective support. Parents, in turn, face uncertainty and may struggle to support their child into the most appropriate educational setting.

1.5 One of the biggest pressures both nationally and in Rotherham has been the number of EHC assessments required. These are legal processes where the Council must gather professional advice within legal timescales. For each agreed EHC Plan, an Educational Psychologist must write psychological advice.

1.6 As demand has increased, it has become harder for the service to:

- meet these legal deadlines consistently
- still provide early help and support to schools
- manage staff workload and wellbeing concerns
- increase its support for the Council's inclusion priorities

1.7 In the past, when demand was high, early support work was sometimes deprioritised in order to deal with urgent statutory work. This national problem has also been reflected in Rotherham. This has made things more challenging over time, as more cases escalate to formal assessment.

1.8 The Council recognised these issues when setting the 2026/27 budget and agreed additional ongoing funding for the service. This report explains how the service will now operate using that funding.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The new EP delivery model is designed to:

- make sure the Council meets its statutory duties on time,
- speed up advice for EHC assessments,
- give schools more early help so issues do not escalate, and
- reduce the need to rely on temporary agency staff.

2.2 These statutory issues include:

2.2.1 **1. Meeting statutory time limits on EHC plan duties**

The Council must complete EHC assessments within strict timescales. The service needs enough educational psychology capacity to do this reliably. This is important because it helps teachers and parents understand the special needs of their children. This means that children can get the help they need. An EHC plan also provides additional resources so that those special needs can be met and it provides parents with options about schools.

2.2.2 **2. Having a stable workforce**

The service has relied too much on temporary and agency staff. This can be expensive and means children and families do not always get the consistent support they need. A stable workforce allows for deeper relationships to be built with schools, children and families. It also helps with staff morale, professional development and retention.

2.2.3 **3. Providing early help**

Schools need access to advice and support before problems become more serious. In the past, this work has often been hard to deliver amidst other pressures. The new delivery model will ensure that help is targeted at those areas with the highest levels of social and economic need. This is because these areas also tend to have the highest levels of children with special educational needs and disabilities.

2.2.3.1 This new way of working will also make it easier for the EP service to become part of the national requirement for there to be a local Experts at Hand (EAH) Team, which is outlined in the Schools White Paper ‘Every child achieving and thriving’ (2026)

2.2.3.2 The EAH team will be made up of educational psychologists, specialist teachers, speech and language therapists and occupational therapists. The new EP delivery model means that educational psychologists can be both part of this new team and make it easier for the work by the EAH to take place. The new model enables the

educational psychologists to provide more intensive early help whilst the EAH team can provide broader multi-disciplinary team support.

2.2.4 **4. Using resources better**

A more planned and stable model of delivery will make better use of funding, reduce agency costs, and provide a more predictable service. This will support schools as they implement the Schools White Paper (2026) inclusion goals. The balance between universal and targeted work means that those with the most needs can have access to support when they need it. It also ensures that all children and schools continue to have access to support where they need it. The new delivery model also means that that there is more money available to help schools, children and families. This is both because of the increased funding and the reduced need to use agency educational psychologists, where the resultant savings can be used to provide more front-line services.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The options for this service were already considered as part of the 2026/27 budget, so this report does not revisit those decisions. Instead, this section explains how the agreed model will work in practice.

3.2 What the new model looks like

3.2.1 The EP Service will focus on three main areas of work:

1. **Statutory work (legal duties):** This is the biggest part of the service and includes assessments and advice for EHC plans.

2. **Targeted early help:** Extra support for schools and areas where needs are highest, to prevent problems getting worse.

3. **Universal and traded support**
   Ongoing advice, training and support that schools can access.

3.2.2 These three areas are designed to work together so the service is more balanced and does not just react to pressure.

3.3 How the service will be balanced

3.3.1 In the past, when demand increased, nearly all capacity was pulled into statutory work.

3.3.2 This meant early help and support for schools reduced which often led to more children needing formal assessments later. The new model is different because it will plan further ahead for statutory demand, protect more time for early help and set clear limits on what can be delivered, so the service is more consistent in its delivery.

3.3.3 Around 1,800 days per year of educational psychologist time will be set aside for statutory work (EHC assessments). This is to make sure that legal deadlines are

met, advice is provided on time, and the Council avoids legal and reputational risks.

3.3.4 To support this, the Council will recruit two additional permanent Educational Psychologists that will reduce reliance on agency staff, give families and schools more consistent support and improve oversight and quality.

3.4 **How staff will be used**

3.4.1 Staff will be deployed more clearly and consistently. The key changes are the planning of statutory work, permanent staff forming the core of the service, time for early help work being protected, and traded work being based on what can be delivered consistently. This is a shift away from how the service has had to operate in the past.

3.5 **Targeted early help**

3.4.1 Around 120 days per year will be set aside specifically for early intervention. This will focus on schools with the highest levels of need, children at risk of needing more intensive support and key transition points (for example, starting or moving school).

3.5.2 Support will include working directly with schools to understand and manage needs, short-term, practical help to stabilise situations and helping schools put the right support in place early.

3.5.3 The aim is to deal with issues earlier, so fewer children need formal assessments later.

3.5 **Support for all schools (Universal and traded offer)**

3.6.1 The service will continue to provide support to all schools, including advice and consultation, training for staff, help with planning support for children, critical incident support and wider work to improve inclusion.

3.6.2 This will be delivered through a mix of Council-funded work, grant funding and traded services schools can buy into. Overall, around 1,200 days per year will be available for this work.

3.7 **How performance will be monitored**

3.7.1 The delivery of SEND services receives oversight and scrutiny from both the Place board and Improving Lives Select Commission.

3.7.2 The model will be formally reviewed after its first year to make sure it is working as intended, early help is making a difference, and the service is sustainable. Key success indictors will include an increase in school attendance and reduction in exclusion.

3.8 **Implementation**

3.8.1 The revised delivery model will be introduced in phases to ensure a smooth transition and no disruption to statutory services.

3.8.2 Since April, the focus has been on preparing the service. This includes recruiting additional Educational Psychologists, reviewing workloads, and working with schools to explain the changes and support planning.

3.8.3 The new model will be implemented from September 2026. This will introduce a clearer balance between statutory work, early help, and support for schools, with protected time for early intervention and reduced reliance on agency staff.

3.8.4 During implementation, performance will be closely monitored, particularly around statutory timescales for EHC assessments and the quality and timeliness of support provided to schools and families.

3.8.5 The model will be reviewed after its first year to ensure it is working effectively, supporting early intervention, and delivering a sustainable service.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Engagement with schools and settings is taking place during the summer term to support implementation of the revised model from September 2026.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Key milestones include:

- Council budget approval: March 2026
- Implementation of fees and charges: April 2026
- Recruitment to additional EPS posts: by September 2026
- Full implementation of revised model: September 2026

5.2 Oversight will be provided through existing Children and Young People's Services governance arrangements.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 Additional budget of £453k has been approved by the Council for the implementation of the revised EPS delivery model as set out in this report. The proposed investment will enable a sustainable model that delivers statutory obligations, targeted interventions, and a reduced but viable traded offer:

- Statutory Work: Increase capacity to 1,800 activity days per year, ensuring compliance with statutory deadlines.
- Targeted Intervention: Introduce a new offer focused on inclusion and early help in schools with the greatest need, reducing future statutory demand.
- Traded Services: Maintain a reduced offer (1,221 activity days), balancing income generation with statutory priorities.

6.2 The impact of the new model and additional investment is as follows:

- **Staffing levels**: increasing the statutory and targeted offer would require an increase in EP staffing capacity of 2 full time equivalent at an additional estimated cost of £134k

- **Traded Service Offer**: under the revised model, the capacity to provide traded Educational Psychology services to schools would reduce from 2,074 to 1,221 activity days. Should overall demand for traded EP service exceed 1,221 days, other sources of traded capacity are available to schools. The resulting reduction in budgeted income from schools - estimated at £319k, due to capacity being redirected to statutory and targeted demand - would be fully offset by the proposed additional investment. The approved fees and charges from April 2026 are based on the revised traded offer and activity levels.

6.3 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The duty placed upon the Local Authority to secure an EHC needs assessment is detailed in Section 36 of the Children and Families Act 2014 [‘the Act’]. An EHC needs assessment is an assessment of the educational, health care and social care needs of a child or young person.

7.2 The Special Educational Needs and Disability regulations 2014 [‘the Regulations’] set out the detailed requirements placed upon local authorities for assessing children and young people’s education, health and care needs and where necessary drawing up EHC plans.

7.3 Regulation 8 of the Regulations outlines the duty to co-operate in EHC needs assessments. The statutory timeframe for providing expert advice and assistance is 6 weeks from the date on which the request was received and compliance with such a request is statutory.

7.4 The SEND Code of Practice 2015, paragraph 9.52 also states: -

“Advice and information requested by the local authority must be provided within six weeks of the request, and should be provided more quickly wherever possible, to enable a timely process. (This is subject to the exemptions set out in paragraph 9.42.)”

7.5 The Regulations also impose statutory timescales upon the Local Authority in relation to notification of a decision that it is not necessary for special educational provision to be made for a child or young person in accordance with an EHC plan. This notification must be given as soon as practicable and in any event within 16 weeks of the Local Authority receiving the request for an EHC needs assessment.

7.6 The Local Authority must send a finalised EHC plan as soon as practicable and in any event within 20 weeks of the Local Authority receiving the request for an EHC needs assessment.

7.7 Non-compliance with the statutory timescale of 6 weeks for the provision of EP advice will also have a direct impact on the overall statutory timescales set out above and risks non-compliance by the Local Authority in respect of those duties.

7.8 Regulation 10(4)(a)-(d) of the Regulations specifies lawful reasons as to why the Local Authority does not have to comply with the time limits referenced at paragraphs 7.5 And 7.6. Long waiting lists and staff shortages are not lawful reasons for non-compliance with statutory timescales.

7.9 The avenues of formal complaint and redress available in the event of non-compliance with the statutory timeframes include appeal to the First Tier SEND Tribunal, Application for Judicial Review and/or complaint to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

7.10 All of the above pose significant financial and reputational risk to the Local Authority and may directly impact upon the child or young person and their family.

7.11 The revised model supports compliance with statutory duties outlined by ensuring timely delivery of Educational Psychology advice within the EHC needs assessment process.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 The model includes recruitment to permanent Educational Psychologist posts and strengthens workforce stability, professional development and retention.

8.2 The Council has a statutory duty to meet the six-week timeframe for psychological advice as part of the EHC needs assessment process under the Children and Families Act 2014.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Improved capacity and timeliness of Educational Psychology input support earlier identification of need, more timely access to support and improved outcomes for children, young people and families.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An Equality Screening Assessment has been completed. Improved timeliness and consistency of EPS input supports equitable access to statutory assessment and support for children with SEND.

10.2 Both an Initial Equality Screening Assessment and an Equality Analysis have been completed and are attached as Appendices 1 and 2.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 No significant additional carbon impacts are anticipated, as service changes relate to workforce capacity rather than physical estate or travel.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The revised model supports clearer and more sustainable partnership working with schools and other partners through improved EPS capacity and targeted support where need is greatest.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Key risks relate to workforce recruitment and adjustment to revised traded arrangements. These will be mitigated through phased implementation, proactive engagement with schools and ongoing monitoring through Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) governance.

14. Accountable Officers

Niall Devlin – Service Director, Education & Inclusion

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	17/06/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	10/06/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	10/06/26

Report Author: Niall Devlin
Niall.Devlion@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Educational Psychology Service – New model of delivery - Appendix 1:

Glossary of Key Terms

ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)
A condition affecting behaviour, including levels of attention, hyperactivity, and impulsiveness.

Autism
A developmental condition affecting communication, behaviour, and social interaction.

Children and Families Act 2014
The legislation that sets out duties for local authorities regarding children and young people with special educational needs, including EHC assessments and plans.

Educational Psychologist (EP)
A registered practitioner psychologist who applies psychological knowledge and skills to support children and young people's learning, development, behaviour and wellbeing.

Educational Psychologists:

- Assess and understand children and young people's needs using psychological knowledge and evidence
- Provide advice and interventions to support learning, emotional wellbeing and development
- Work collaboratively with families, schools and other professionals
- Use professional judgement and research to inform decisions and improve outcomes
- Practise safely, ethically and within legal frameworks, maintaining high standards of care and accountability

They are regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and must meet defined standards of proficiency to ensure safe and effective practice

Educational Psychology Service (EPS)
The service that delivers psychological support, advice, and assessments for children and young people.

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment
A formal process carried out by the local authority to assess a child or young person's education, health, and care needs. The assessment has to be completed within 20 weeks from the date the request is received.

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan
A legal document describing a child or young person's needs and the support required to meet those needs.

Experts at Hand (EAH) Team
Experts at Hand (EAH) is a national SEND reform initiative that provides schools, early years settings and colleges with access to specialist education and health expertise.

The EAH offer is designed to:

- Strengthen the ability of mainstream settings to support children and young people with SEND
- Provide a new route to access expert advice and support, including educational psychologists, specialist teachers, speech and language therapists, and occupational therapists
- Deliver early support and guidance, helping needs to be identified and addressed more quickly
- Improve inclusive practice, enabling more children to be supported effectively within mainstream education

EAH is delivered through local area partnerships between education, health and local authorities, and is intended to enhance existing services rather than replace statutory provision, including Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Inclusion – Working Definition
Inclusion refers to how effectively a school or educational setting identifies, supports and enables all children and young people to participate, achieve and thrive, particularly those who face barriers such as Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), disadvantage or vulnerability. This includes:

- Having high expectations for all pupils, including those with additional needs
- Identifying needs early and accurately
- Putting in place appropriate support and adaptations to remove barriers to learning
- Working in partnership with families, professionals and services
- Ensuring learners are fully included in the life of the school or setting

Inclusion is not a standalone activity, but a principle that underpins all aspects of education, including quality of education, behaviour, attendance and wellbeing.

Local Authority
The council responsible for delivering education, health, and care duties (in this case, Rotherham Council).

Occupational Therapist
A professional who supports children with physical, sensory, or developmental needs.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)
A term describing children and young people who require additional support due to learning difficulties or disabilities.

SEND Code of Practice (2015)
Statutory guidance outlining how organisations must support children and young people with SEND.

SEND Executive Board
The SEND Executive Board is the senior multi-agency governance body responsible for overseeing the delivery, improvement and performance of services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It brings together leaders from education, health and social care, with delegated authority to act on behalf of their organisations.

SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health)
A type of special educational need relating to emotional wellbeing, behaviour, and mental health.

Speech and Language Therapist
A specialist who supports children with communication and language difficulties.

Statutory Duties
Legal responsibilities that the local authority must fulfil.

Statutory Timescales
Legally required time limits for completing processes such as EHC assessments. For example, EHC needs assessment must be completed within 20 weeks of the request.

Traded Services
Services provided by the council that schools and organisations can buy.

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Appendix 2:

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Education Psychology Service – New model of delivery	
Directorate: CYPS	**Service area:** Education & Inclusion
Lead person: Niall Devlin	**Contact:** niall.devlin@rotherham.gov.uk

Is this a:

	Strategy / Policy	X	**Service / Function**		**Other**

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
Implementation of the revised Educational Psychology Service (EPS) delivery model, following approval of recurrent investment through the 2026/27 budget. The revised EPS delivery model sets out how approved resources will be deployed in practice to: • strengthen statutory compliance for Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments; • improve timeliness and quality of Educational Psychology advice;

Appendix 2:

- protect and restore targeted early intervention and inclusion-focused support; and
- reduce reliance on agency staffing through increased permanent capacity.

The proposal focuses on service delivery arrangements and workforce deployment and does not introduce changes to eligibility criteria for statutory services.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? *(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)*	Yes	
Could the proposal affect service users? *(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)*	Yes	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? *(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)*	Yes	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? *(It is important that the Council is transparent, and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)*	Yes	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)*	Yes	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)*	Yes	

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

Appendix 2:

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above, please complete **sections 5 and 6.**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above, please complete **section 4.**

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity
If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.** Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation. Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).
• **How have you considered equality and diversity?** Equality and diversity considerations have been integral to the design of the revised Educational Psychology Service (EPS) delivery model. The model is focused on improving equitable access to statutory and non-statutory Educational Psychology support for children and young people, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The revised model responds to evidence of increasing statutory demand and complexity of need. Dedicated capacity for statutory assessments and protected early intervention activity are intended to reduce delays, improve consistency and avoid displacement of preventative support.
• **Key findings** Children and young people with disabilities are the primary group affected. Improved timeliness and quality of advice support equitable statutory processes. No changes to eligibility criteria or thresholds are proposed. Benefits will be experienced borough-wide, with targeted support based on need.
• **Actions** • Proceed to a full Equality Analysis (Part B). • Monitor statutory performance and access data. • Engage schools during implementation.

Appendix 2:

• Review equality impacts after year one.	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	May 2026
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	May 2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Niall Devlin – Service Director, Education & Inclusion

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Niall Devlin	Service Director, Education & Inclusion	May 2026
Nicola Curley	Executive Director, CYPS	May 2026

6. Publishing	
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	29th April 2026
Report title and date	Education Psychology Service: Revised Delivery Model – 6th July 2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	July 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	06/05/2026

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Education Psychology Service – New model of delivery	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 6th May 2026	
Directorate: CYPS	**Service area:** Education & Inclusion
Lead Manager: Niall Devlin – Service Director, Education & Inclusion	**Contact number:** 01709 254235
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Niall Devlin	RMBC	Service Director, Education & Inclusion
Nicola Curley	RMBC	Executive Director, CYPS
Cary-Anne Sykes	RMBC	Head of Service, SEND

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)
This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, other groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The Equality Analysis relates to implementation of the revised Educational Psychology Service (EPS) delivery model, following approval of recurrent investment through the 2026/27 budget.

The service primarily affects:

- Children and young people, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Families and carers
- Schools and education settings
- EPS staff

The intended outcomes are to:

- Improve statutory compliance for Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments
- Improve the timeliness and quality of Educational Psychology advice
- Protect and restore early intervention and inclusion-focused activity
- Reduce reliance on agency staffing and improve service sustainability

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

- Demand data showing sustained growth in statutory EHC assessment activity
- Evidence of increasing complexity of need, particularly relating to disability
- Performance data on statutory timescales and EPS contribution to EHC processes
- Workforce data relating to reliance on agency staff
- Equality Screening Assessment (Part A), which identified **children with disabilities** as the primary affected group
- Cabinet reporting and assurance processes

The data shows that EPS is a high-impact, statutory service primarily serving children and young people with disabilities and complex SEND**,** with a central role in reducing

inequalities by enabling timely assessment, access to support, and more inclusive educational outcomes.

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?
Engagement with schools and settings is planned but not yet complete

These gaps will be addressed through ongoing monitoring and engagement during implementation.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

The impact of the revised model will be monitored through:

- Statutory timeliness and compliance measures
- Monitoring access to EPS activity across statutory, targeted and traded functions
- Review of workforce capacity, stability and continuity
- Formal review of equality impacts after the first year of implementation

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Engagement with schools and education settings is planned between **May – July 2026** to support implementation from September 2026
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Internal consultation completed with EPS leadership, CYPS senior management, HR, Finance and Legal Services during development of the revised model

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

The revised EPS delivery model directly supports children and young people with **disabilities** by improving access to timely, high-quality Educational Psychology advice within statutory EHC processes.
By protecting capacity for early intervention and inclusion-focused work, the model also supports:

- Children at risk of escalation
- Families and carers requiring earlier, preventative intervention
- Schools serving areas with higher levels of need

There are **no changes to eligibility criteria or thresholds**, ensuring equitable access across all communities.
Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups? No new barriers to access have been identified. The model reduces existing barriers caused by delay, displacement of early intervention activity, and reliance on agency staffing.
Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers? • Improved statutory compliance and reduced risk of unlawful delay • Greater consistency and quality of Educational Psychology advice • Improved continuity for children, families and schools • Strengthened early intervention, supporting inclusive practice • Reduced reliance on agency staff, supporting service sustainability
What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another) The model is expected to have a positive impact on community relations, improving confidence and trust in statutory SEND processes. No adverse impacts on community cohesion have been identified.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: Education Psychology Service: Revised Delivery Model
Directorate and service area: CYPS – Education & Inclusion
Lead Manager: Niall Devlin – Service Manager, Education & Inclusion
Summary of findings:
The Equality Analysis identifies a positive overall impact, particularly for children and young people with disabilities. The revised EPS delivery model improves equity of access, timeliness, quality and sustainability of service provision without introducing new barriers or unequal treatment.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Monitor statutory compliance and access data by equality group	D, A, RE, O	Ongoing
Engage schools during implementation phase	D, O	Jul 2026
Review equality impact after year one of operation	D, O	Sep 2027
Report findings through CYPS governance	D, O	Ongoing
Revisit this EIA after the consultation	D, O	July 2026

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Niall Devlin	Service Director, Education & Inclusion	May 2026
Nicola Curley	Executive Director, CYPS	May 2026
Cllr Victoria Cusworth	Cabinet Member for Children & Young People	May 2026

7. Publishing	
The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date Equality Analysis completed	6th May 2026
Report title and date	Education Psychology Service: Revised Delivery Model – Cabinet, 6 July 2026
Date report sent for publication	July 2026
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	6th May 2026

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None	No additional buildings or estate changes required; existing premises used.	No material borough-wide impact.	Existing energy efficiency measures retained.	Covered by existing monitoring.
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	No significant increase in staff travel expected. As the revised Educational Psychology Service delivery model is intended to restore targeted early intervention and inclusion-focused provision, its success could mitigate carbon emissions *e.g.*, from home to school transport, which might otherwise arise from statutory assessment.	No material borough-wide impact. Since the revised delivery model is intended to stabilise workforce capacity and reduce reliance on short-term and agency staffing (see para. **2.2** in the report), its success could mitigate carbon emissions from staff travel, assuming that short-term and agency staff will generally need to travel farther to work in Rotherham.	Hybrid working and efficient scheduling.	Reviewed through service management. Carbon emissions from home to school transport provision are estimated as scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions under contract or reported directly from fuel use on routes served by the Council's own vehicles.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None	No increase in waste generation.	No impact anticipated.	Digital-first working continues.	No additional monitoring.

Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

A resilient Educational Psychology Service which is financial sustainable and with a delivery model adapted to the increasing demand and complexity of need within the SEND system will support the adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change of people living in Rotherham, in the longer term. By restoring targeted early intervention and inclusion-focused provision, changes to the EPS delivery model detailed in the Cabinet paper should mitigate avoidable escalation of need. This is relevant to climate adaptation, since complex additional needs are recognised risk factor affecting vulnerability e.g., the 2022 LeDeR report recorded a spike in the avoidable deaths of people with learning disabilities during the June 2022 extreme heatwave.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The revised delivery model is not anticipated to result in additional carbon emissions. The proposal relates to workforce capacity rather than buildings or construction and supports service resilience.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Niall Devlin Service Director, Education & Inclusion Education & Inclusion Children and Young People's Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	White, A., Sheehan, R., Strydom, A., Roberts, C., Ding, J., Chauhan, U., and Tuffrey-Wijne, I. 2023. *LeDeR report 2022*. [Online]. [Accessed 18 May 2026]. Available from: https://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/assets/fans-dept/leder-2022-v2.0.pdf.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 643 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title
Financial Outturn 2025/26

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Judith Badger, Executive Director of Corporate Services

Report Author(s)
Rob Mahon, Service Director – Financial Services
01709 254518 or rob.mahon@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report provides a detailed outline of the final revenue and capital outturn position for 2025/26.

The Council set a balanced budget position for 2025/26 as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26 approved at Council on 5th March 2025. A Revenue Budget of £359.0m was set for General Fund services, this excludes schools' budgets and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) position was based on sound financial assumptions at the time, factoring in budget contingencies for service demand pressures, in particular within Social Care, Home to School Transport and the impact of the Local Government Pay Award.

However, demand and market pressures in relation to Children's residential placements and placement types, and the cost and complexity of care packages in Adult Social Care have continued to increase. Market prices have increased at above inflation levels, which in turn has placed further pressures on the Council's Budget.

The Local Government Pay Award was agreed at 3.2% at all pay bands up to senior officer. The impact was £2.3m above the budget allocated when setting the Council's Budget. The Council has no control over the level of pay award agreed.

The December Financial Monitoring Report 2025/26 submitted to Cabinet on 9th February 2026 outlined that the Council anticipated an overspend of £3.4m. This forecast position was also outlined in the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report which was submitted to the same Cabinet meeting and also to Council on 4th March 2026. The overspend was proposed to be funded from Council Reserves. However, the report noted the Council's intention to further improve the outturn position, if possible, which would see a lower value call on reserves.

The actual financial outturn position reflects an overspend of £0.3m, an improvement of £3.1m from the December Financial Monitoring reported to February Cabinet. This improvement was a result of service areas delivering further savings ahead of year-end, maximising grant allocations, improvements in income and the Council generating further savings in Treasury Management.

The Council's final overspend position of £0.3m has been funded by £0.3m of the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve as approved within the Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27.

Following approval of the 2026/27 Budget, the global economic position has remained volatile. Economic market sentiment has been heavily influenced by the Middle East conflict leading to steepening energy costs, and commentators anticipate a growing risk of inflation. These financial challenges are being regularly reviewed as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning.

The Housing Revenue Account had an underspend of £4.3m. As a result of this the HRA use of reserves was able to be reduced from £7.2m to £2.9m. This will help the HRA to mitigate the financial challenges presented by increased maintenance requirements over the medium term.

The Capital Programme outturn position shows slippage and underspend of £15m against the Budget for 2025/26. Capital expenditure (programme delivery) in the year increased from the previous years to £150.6m (2024/25 outturn was £140.6m).

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the revenue outturn position for 2025/26.

2. Note the required transfer from HRA reserves decreased by £4.3m following the revenue and capital outturn position.

3. Note the carry forward of the combined surplus schools balance of £2.395m in accordance with the Department for Education regulations.

4. Note the reserves position set out in paragraphs 2.15 to 2.16.

5. Note the capital outturn, funding position and programme variations as set out in paragraphs 2.17 to 2.25.

List of Appendices Included
Appendix 1A to 1D – Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30
Appendix 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment
Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers
Budget and Council Tax 2025/26 Report to Council on 5th March 2025
Budget Monitoring, May 2025 to Cabinet July 2025
Budget Monitoring, July 2025 to Cabinet September 2025
Budget Monitoring, September 2025 to Cabinet November 2025
Budget Monitoring, November 2025 to Cabinet January 2026
Budget Monitoring, December 2025 to Cabinet February 2026
Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 Report to Council on 4th March 2026
Finance Update to Cabinet on 8th June 2026

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Financial Outturn 2025/26

1. Background

1.1 This report sets out the Council's revenue, capital, HRA and schools outturn position in 2025/26. It also describes the details of the Council's reserves balances as at the end of the financial year. The Council set a revenue budget for 2025/26 of £359.0m and a 5-year Capital Programme of £750.138m.

1.2 Delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Programme within the parameters agreed by Council is essential if the Council's objectives are to be achieved. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework.

1.3 This report is the final report in a series of financial monitoring reports to Cabinet for 2025/26, setting out the year end revenue budget outturn position in light of actual costs and income.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The Council's directorates had an overspend position of £5.7m. This position was largely due to the following pressures and mitigating actions:

- Underlying placement pressures within Children and Young People's Services (CYPS), £6.2m.
- Grant maximisation, including the use of in-year funding slippage within Children and Young People's Services, £3.2m.
- Savings achieved through staff vacancies and turnover within CYPS, £0.4m.
- Underlying and rising demand and complexity of care packages within Adult Social Care (ASC), £7m.
- Reduced cost of staffing in ASC due to vacancies and grant maximisation, £1m.
- Reduced spend on homelessness, furnished homes and employment support as vacancies and grants offset spend, £1m.
- Within Regeneration and Environment (R&E), overspends in Waste of £0.9m, Markets £0.5m and Home to School Transport £0.4m offset by overachievement of income in Streetworks £0.7m, vacancies £0.6m and capitalisation of staff costs £0.3m.
- Finance and Customer Services (F&CS) generated savings from higher income in Registrars, maximisation of grants and contributions and savings in relation to vacancies.

2.2 Central Services delivered an underspend of £5.4m. This was a result of the £5.4m Social Care contingency approved within the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26 being used to offset the £6.2m placement overspend within the CYPS outturn position, as planned. In addition, savings generated within the Council's Treasury Management Strategy offset the impact of the Local Government Pay Award and in year inflationary pressures.

2.3 The final outturn was an overspend of £0.3m funded by the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve. Whilst there were no plans to use the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve in the Budget & Council Tax Report 2025/26, the final use was £3.1m less than anticipated in the approved Budget & Council Tax Report 2026/27. Overall, this reflects that whilst the Council has faced some significant challenges, through robust management and controls and careful financial planning, the Council's overall financial position continues to improve.

2.4 **Table 1: Revenue Outturn 2025/26**

Table 1 below provides a summary of the Revenue Outturn for 2025/26. This is followed by a summary of the position by Directorate which includes an explanation of the key variances.

Directorate	**Budget 2025/26**	**Outturn 2025/26**	**Variance over/under (-)**
	£m	**£m**	**£m**
Children and Young People Services	76.5	79.1	2.6
Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	147.4	152.2	4.8
Regeneration and Environment Services	55.8	55.3	-0.5
Finance and Customer Services	37.7	37.0	-0.7
Assistant Chief Executive	9.2	8.7	-0.5
Central Services	32.4	27.0	-5.4
Directorate Forecast Outturn	**359.0**	**359.3**	**0.3**
Use of Reserves			-0.3
Final Outturn Position			**0.0**
Dedicated Schools Grant			2.3
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)			-4.3

2.5 Children and Young People Services Directorate (£2.6m overspend)

2.5.1 The Children & Young People Services had a budget pressure of £2.6m at the end of March 2026. In the main the overall budget pressures in CYPS relate to continued demands on children in care placements.

2.5.2 The reported year-end position includes the impact of in-year actions implemented to mitigate overall cost pressures, including maximising or redirecting the use of grant funding and delay in recruitment. The following section summarises the key budget variances across CYPS for the year.

2.5.3 Children's Social Care was overspent by £4.7m and is mainly attributable to cost pressures within the children in care placements budget. The following are key points to note relating to the children in care placement budgets:

- The number of children in care is 475 at the end of March 2026 – this is a reduction of 6 compared to 481 at the beginning of the year. This continues the downward trend in children in care numbers since 2022.
- The final placement budget pressure was £4.9m. This includes several one-off mitigations applied during the year (e.g. grant maximisation, funding slippage and additional income). Excluding these, the underlying pressure was £6.2m.
- External residential placements remain the primary cost driver. At year end, 44 children were in external residential provision, against a budgeted number of 24. Pressures are compounded by a growing proportion of children with complex needs requiring high-cost placements.
- Occupancy in RMBC-owned residential homes was 81% (3x vacant beds) at year end, down from 87% the previous month. The aim is to be fully occupied at all times, to mitigate the call on external placements, though this will not always be possible.
- The number of children in foster care (including RMBC carers, family and friends, and independent fostering agencies) increased to 306 at the end of March, up from 289 in February.
- The year-end placement numbers and underlying recurrent costs continue to present a significant financial risk for 2026/27. Work is underway to strengthen placement budget projections, alongside clearer actions to mitigate cost pressures.

2.5.4 An overall underspend of £2.1m is reported across other service areas in CYPS including Education & Inclusion, Family Help, and Commissioning, Performance & Quality. The underspend is mainly attributable to staffing turnover / vacancies, increased external income, reduced home to school transport costs and reduction in locum and agency staff spend and grant maximisation measures.

2.6 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Budgets

2.6.1 A surplus balance position of £2.4m is reported for 2025/26 for all maintained schools with delegated budgets (including 3 stand-alone nursery schools). Under the regulations, the surplus balance will be carried forward and is ring-fenced for use by maintained schools. The reported position is inclusive of 3 schools that reported a year-end deficit. A budget recovery plan will be agreed with these schools to bring the budget back in balance over an agreed timescale.

2.6.2 A year-end deficit of £2.3m is reported across centrally retained DSG budgets, primarily driven by High Needs / Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) pressures. The following explain the main budget variances for the year:

- High Needs (£3.6m overspend) – Reflects increased demand within the SEND system, including rising numbers of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) in mainstream and specialist settings, alongside inflationary cost pressures.
- Other Central DSG (£1.3m underspend) – this is mainly attributable to increased early years funding for childcare and nursery entitlement for 2-year-olds and under 2's.

The above centrally retained DSG overspend of £2.3m has been transferred into the DSG Reserve account. The overall DSG reserve position as at 31st March 2026 is a cumulative deficit of £2.9m, which will be carried forward to 2026/27 under the DSG statutory override regulation. Work has been completed on agreeing the 2026/27 high needs budget, which shows a planned deficit of £5.5m for the year. However, this will be updated on completion of the SEND Reform Plan.

2.7 Adult Care, Housing & Public Health (£4.8m overspend)

2.7.1 The overall directorate is reporting a £4.8m overspend at the end of March 2026. This is made up of a £1m underspend in Neighbourhoods, a £5.9m overspend in Adult Social Care and £0.1m underspend in Public Health. Neighbourhoods covers the non-HRA housing services that the Council provides, such as homelessness and temporary accommodation.

2.7.2 The Adult Social Care (ASC) overspend of £5.9m was caused by a £7m overspend on rising demand and complexity of care packages. The main area of overspend was working age adults, especially people with learning disabilities and people with mental health need as packages increased significantly in the year in terms of demand and cost. There was a 14% rise in the number of people needing mental health support compared to 1% increase overall.

2.7.3 The overspend on placements was mitigated in part by staffing budgets that were under budget by £1m.

2.7.4 The Housing service (non-HRA) underspend of £1m consists of an underspend on homelessness and temporary accommodation of £0.5m and furnished homes of £0.3m and £0.2m on salary costs. This has arisen largely due to additional grant income that was received in year, therefore not allowing new homelessness schemes to be delivered across the full financial year, creating an underspend.

2.7.5 The Public Health underspend of £0.093m was caused mainly by reduced administrative costs.

2.8 Regeneration and Environment (£0.5m underspend)

2.8.1 The Directorate's final outturn was a £0.5m underspend, which is a £1.3m improvement from the December financial monitoring update. The main underspends, overspends and reasons for movement are explained below.

2.8.2 The Markets service had a £0.5m overspend because of income shortfalls which is a similar position to previous years. This is likely to continue into next financial year as the development of the markets complex continues.

2.8.3 The Waste service did not fully deliver the £0.5m route optimisation saving approved as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26. As work progresses on the route optimisation plan that will increase the efficiency of waste rounds, the position with regards to the delivery of this saving will become clearer. The Service overspent by £0.9m overall, with £0.3m relating to the saving and

£0.6m to refund garden waste customers, which was not included in the previous report.

2.8.4 The final outturn for Home to School Transport was a £0.4m overspend. As at the 31st March 2026, the service was operating 345 routes for 1,293 passengers and there were 211 parental payment travel solutions in place.

2.8.5 These overspends are offset by a £0.4m underspend in Community Safety and Regulation owing to vacancies and delays in implementation of the new Street Safe Team. Licensing also had a £0.2m underspend as a result of vacancies, which is a similar position to last year. The Regeneration team is capitalising staff salaries of project managers delivering the capital programme, resulting in a £0.3m underspend.

2.8.6 The Directorate utilised an additional £0.3m of grants to improve its position compared to the December forecast, to support the overall Council position. Streetworks and Enforcement had income higher than budget by £0.7m, largely generated from road closure fees, which improved by £0.2m in the final quarter as utility companies carried out more work. There was also £0.4m improvement in Culture, Sport and Tourism as the income outturn was higher than expected in Country Parks and cafés.

2.9 Finance and Customer Services (£0.7m underspend)

2.9.1 Corporate Services was underspent by £0.86m at year-end. There are a number of financial pressures across the services, particularly around Post and Print and recruitment challenges within Legal Services leading to continued use of Locums at a premium. However, there have been savings achieved in relation to vacancy management, higher income in Registrars and maximisation of grants and contributions. These actions have mitigated the financial pressures and delivered an overall underspend to support the wider Council outturn.

2.9.2 As well as the above, Property and Facilities Services (PFS) had a broadly balanced outturn of £0.1m overspent. This was a £0.3m worsening from the previous report to Cabinet as delays in capital programmes caused the Building Consultancy service's income to decrease by £0.6m, which was largely offset by a £0.3m improvement in Catering Services income.

2.9.3 Overall the Finance & Customer Services (FCS) position has improved since December monitoring as the service has looked to generate further savings to support the Council’s attempts to balance the budget.

2.10 Assistant Chief Executive (£0.5m underspend)

2.10.1 The underspend at outturn is the consolidated result of underspends in-year from vacancies and savings on non-staff expenditure, despite a number of underlying budget pressures.

2.11 Central Services (£5.4m underspend)

2.11.1 Central Services delivered an underspend of £5.4m resulting from the £5.4m social care contingency approved within the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26. Savings were made in year from the Treasury Management function totalling more than £7.6m, however, these savings have been used to offset wider Council impacts such as inflationary pressures in year and the impact of the Local Government Pay Award. The treasury outturn position reflects the Council's approach to only borrow for cash flow purposes when required and maximise the benefits of the local authority lending market. It is also linked to slippage on the Capital Programme that has reduced the need to borrow during 2025/26.

2.11.2 Central Services has continued to see pressures as a result of higher base costs, high and volatile inflation, high real living wage increases and the impact of the 2025/26 Local Government Pay Award. However, the Council was able to build into the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26 greater levels of funding to manage the impact of inflation, energy and pay. As such these impacts have been controlled within the existing budgetary provision.

2.11.3 Central Services is made up of several corporate budgets for levies and charges such as the Integrated Transport Levy (ITL), Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Financing, and Treasury Management. A list of the main budget areas within Central Services was provided as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26, approved at Council 5th March 2025. The costs within this area are largely fixed costs, set out prior to the start of a financial year, not specific to a particular Directorate and are therefore not controllable by the directorates and thus held centrally. For example, the cost of levies for 2025/26 was set at £13.5m at the outset of 2025/26.

2.11.4 The budget as approved at Council on 5th March 2025 included provisions, allocations for inflation, pay award and anticipated cost pressures. These budgets were held centrally at the start of the year and allocated to services as costs were confirmed and incurred. The table below sets out the headline reasons for the movement between opening budgets and the final budget that has been reported against in this report.

Table 2: Budget Movements during 2025/26

	Opening Budget 2025/26	Pay Award / Fees & Charges Income Inflation	Contract Inflation & Central Provision Allocations to Services	Service Transfers between Directorates	Final Budget 2025/26
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
CYPS	**68.8**	2.0	5.7	-0.0	**76.5**
ACH&PH	**135.9**	2.0	9.5	-0.0	**147.4**
R&E	**48.6**	2.5	4.9	-0.2	**55.8**
FCS	**35.1**	2.4	1.3	-1.1	**37.7**
ACX	**8.3**	0.6	0.1	0.2	**9.2**
CS	**62.3**	-9.5	-21.5	1.1	**32.4**
TOTAL	**359.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**359.0**

2.12 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (£4.3m underspend)

2.12.1 The Housing Revenue Account is a statutory ring-fenced account that the Council has to maintain in respect of the income and expenditure incurred in relation to its council dwellings and associated assets. The HRA has underspent by £4.3m.

2.12.2 The overall underspend largely relates to £0.3m increased rental income, £0.1m fee income and £3.8m shared savings in repairs and maintenance. The shared savings are a contractual refund from repairs contractors based on the profits they made during the previous year, once those have been confirmed and audited. The income for shared savings covers two years as it is the confirmed element for 2024/25 and an estimate of what will be receivable in 2025/26. As there is a degree of uncertainty around these savings the Council is not able to set spending plans against them; as such they are transferred to reserves and used to benefit the HRA Business Plan over the medium term.

2.13 Delivery of Savings

2.13.1 A total of £7.494m of savings were scheduled to be delivered in 2025/26. It is confirmed that £7.054m of delivery was secured in 2025/26.

2.13.2 **Table 3: Delivery of Agreed Savings:**

Directorate	2025/26 Plan (Total)	Secured as at 31st March 2026	2026/27 Still to be Delivered
Children and Young People Services	6,163	6,163	0
Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	600	600	0
Regeneration and Environment	731	291	440
Total	**7,494**	**7,054**	**440**

2.13.3 All outstanding savings will be carried forward to 2026/27 and delivery will continue to be reported to Cabinet on a regular basis. There has been a shortfall in the delivery on the Route Optimisation saving within Waste Management, that has meant that the full value of the saving has not been achievable in 2025/26. However, the key actions to deliver the saving have been completed and the full value of the saving should be deliverable in 2026/27. There has been a shortfall in savings to be generated from increased income within Culture, Sport and Tourism across the Country Parks. However, given the completion of the new Café at Rother Valley Country Park and refurbished Café at Thrybergh Country Park it is expected that this income stream will continue to grow.

2.14 Schools Outturn 2025/26

2.14.1 School balances at the end of 2025/26 for the Council's maintained schools was £2.395m. This represents the net surplus balances (i.e. unspent budgets), for all

maintained schools (excluding the Pupil Referral Unit). This represents a reduction of £0.069m on the previous year.

2.15 Reserves

2.15.1 The Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26 approved the use of £0.4m from Treasury Management Savings Reserve to support the Budget Strategy. The Financial Monitoring Report 2025/26 submitted to Cabinet on 9th February 2026 was based on the financial monitoring position as at December 2025, which outlined that the Council anticipated an overspend of £3.4m. The overspend was to be funded from Reserves as approved at Council as part of the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report, though the report noted the Council's intention was to further improve that outturn position, if possible, which would see a lower value call on reserves.

2.15.2 The table below sets out movements in reserves and the reserves position as at the outturn 2025/26 compared against the updated expected position set out in the Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27.

2.15.3 The bullet points below explain the reasons for movements in reserves.

- Whilst there were no plans to use the Budget and Financial Strategy Reserve in the original Budget & Council Tax Report 2025/26, the Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27 approved the use of £3.4m to fund the 2025/26 outturn position. However, given the final outturn position was an overspend of £0.3m, the actual use was £3.1m less than anticipated in the approved Budget & Council Tax Report 2026/27.

- A new PFI Leisure Reserve was created to manage the requirement to carry over between years balances in relation to the Leisure PFI, to ensure payments are made within the requirements set out in the contract. It was anticipated that a drawdown would be required from this reserve to fund in-year costs. However, the contract had a small underspend at year-end and as such this was moved to the reserve to fund future years' expenditure.

- The estimated Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) Grant scheme costs were between £1.7m and £1.9m, to be funded by a combination of the Household Support Fund and the Local Council Tax Support Grant Reserve. The final cost was £1.7m, which was primarily met from the Household Support Fund. This has reduced the 2025/26 call on the LCTS Grant Reserve.

- The Council has used £0.4m from Treasury Management Savings Reserves as planned, and an additional £0.4m was used to fund the cost of staff time relating to capital projects, funded from the allocation transferred to reserves in 2024/25 to cover future years' costs.

- The Selective Licensing Reserve is held through the lifetime of the scheme to ensure that fees from landlords are used to fund the administrative costs of the scheme. A small surplus from 2025/26 will be carried forward into 2026/27 to fund future years' costs.

2.15.4 In summary, this means that the total of Corporate Reserves balance at the Financial Outturn 2025/26 is £53.8m, which is £3.3m more than the £50.5m estimated in the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report. The individual reserve balances are shown in the table below. The Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27 planned for a £2.8m increase to reserves in 2026/27. Based on the 2025/26 financial outturn position, that will leave a total of £56.6m Corporate Reserves at the end of the 2026/27 financial year.

2.15.5 The Corporate Reserve balances are shown in the table below.

Table 4: Total Corporate Earmarked Reserves as at 31 March 2026

	Projected Balance at 31 March 2026 (per Budget Report 26/27)	Actual Balance as at 31 March 2026	Variance
	£m	£m	£m
General Fund Reserves			
Budget and Financial Strategy	8.0	11.1	3.1
Business Rates	4.0	4.0	0.0
PFI Reserve - Leisure	0.2	0.6	0.4
Corporate Revenue Grants Reserve	3.1	3.1	0.0
Local Council Tax Support Grant	0.6	0.8	0.2
Collection Fund Income Guarantee Grant	0.0	0.0	0.0
Treasury Management Savings	7.4	7.0	-0.4
Local Plan Reserve	2.2	2.2	0.0
Selective Licensing Reserve	0.0	0.1	0.1
Total	**25.5**	**28.8**	**3.3**
General Fund Minimum Balance	**25.0**	**25.0**	**0.0**
Total General Fund	**50.5**	**53.8**	**3.3**

2.16 Capital Reserves

2.16.1 The total earmarked and un-earmarked capital reserve balances at the end of 2025/26 are shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5 Capital Reserves as at 31 March 2026

	Balance as at 31 March 2026	Committed Resources	Un-earmarked as at 31 March 2026
	£m	£m	£m
Capital Receipts Reserve			
General Fund	0.0	0.0	0.0
Housing (Corporately held)	26.4	26.4	0.0
HRA	8.5	8.5	0.0
Sub-Total	**34.9**	**34.9**	**0.0**

Capital Grants – Unapplied			
General Fund	80.6	80.6	0.0
HRA	6.6	6.6	0.0
Sub-Total	**87.2**	**87.2**	**0.0**
Major Repairs Reserve – HRA	**10.9**	**10.9**	**0**
Total	**133.0**	**133.0**	**0.0**

2.17 CAPITAL OUTTURN 2025/26

2.17.1 The outturn on the Capital Programme was £150.614m (2024/25 £140.590m). The final Capital Programme Budget was £165.620m split between the General Fund £98.555m and HRA £67.065m with underspend and slippage of £15m.

2.17.2 The level of slippage on the Capital Programme is low given the scale and size of the programme. The outturn position shows that 91% of the planned expenditure has been delivered. The Council continues on its improvement journey in terms of Capital delivery, with work underway to review the delivery side of the Capital Programme, in order to identify areas for improvement which is starting to filter through to the outturn position reported.

Table 6 Capital Outturn 2025/26

Directorate	2025/26 Budget	2025/26 Outturn	2025/26 Variance
	£m	£m	£m
General Fund Capital			
Children and Young People Services	9.894	7.949	-1.945
Assistant Chief Executive	0.439	0.267	-0.172
Adult Care & Housing	11.727	10.017	-1.710
Finance & Customer Services	11.057	8.439	-2.618
Regeneration & Environment	65.438	60.657	-4.781
Total General Fund Capital	**98.555**	**87.329**	**-11.226**
Total HRA Capital	**67.065**	**63.285**	**-3.780**
Total RMBC Capital Programme	**165.620**	**150.614**	**-15.006**

2.18 Children and Young People Services

2.18.1 The CYPS Capital Programme outturn has a variance of £1.945m against the approved budget of £9.894m. The main items contributing to this position are:

- Children's Residential Homes, £0.113m slippage. The Council have one property due to have work started in quarter 1 2026/27 following some delays in finalising the design to then allow for planning approvals.
- Primary Schools, £0.77m slippage. This relates to one project where work is completed but the Council needs to agree the final account payment to be made in July 2026.
- Special schools, £1.115m slippage. The budget has slipped on special schools due to delays in delivery on Wales Residential Centre and Newman Whiston as the schemes are awaiting final approval from Department for Education so work will now take place in 2026/27.
- Schools Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Life Cycle Programme, £0.595m budget brought forward. Positively and through strong contract management by the Council, there has been increased spend on capital upgrade works by the PFI provider during the year. The budget has been amended to reflect expenditure for 2025/26.
- School condition works, £0.723m slippage. The Council has a number of schemes which came to light later in the year; the complexity of the work content means the Council need to carry out design work and procure an external contractor to deliver. In addition, the work itself is major work, meaning that it needs to be completed during school holidays so it was adjusted to take place in the Easter and Summer holidays in 2026.

2.18.2 As part of the outturn position the following key outputs have been delivered.

Schools Condition works

- Broom Valley School – concreate window repairs in 2 phases.
- Blackburn Primary – basement damp proofing works.
- Eastwood Village – defective work rectification.
- Herringthorpe Junior & Infants – extraction system.
- Herringthorpe Primary – access control security gates and security. improvements to vehicle access / pedestrian gate.
- Rawmarsh Aspire – roofing works.
- Rawmarsh Rosehill – fencing and repointing works.
- Todwick Primary – asbestos removal.

Places at mainstream schools

- Provided an additional 210 school places at Waverly Junior Academy.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Sufficiency

- New SEND provision created on mainstream sites was finalised in year with Thurcroft Junior Academy, Winterhill and Maltby Manor Academy provisions successfully opening.

- Installation of modular classrooms at Kelford School and the development of a second site at Elements Academy. In total this resulted in an increase of 54 special school places.
- Improvement works have commenced across the three sites occupied by Aspire Pupil Referral Unit. This has included works to improve accessibility, and the curriculum offer at Catcliffe and Hutton Park. Further works are planned in 2026/2027 at the main Rawmarsh site.
- 36 successful capital accessibility small grants schemes from mainstream schools, improving mainstream school provision for pupils with SEND.

2.19 Adult Care & Housing

2.19.1 The Adult Care & Housing Capital Programme outturn had a variance of £1.710m against the approved budget of £11.727m. The main items contributing to this position are:

- Fair Access to All (Aids and Adaptations Privates – Disabled Facilities Grants), slippage £0.2m. This project provides physical adjustments and equipment to properties such as level access showers, ramps and handrails to support people to continue to live in their homes. This is due to slow progress with work delivery which is dictated in part by the customer.
- Rothercare Digital Switchover, slippage of £1.036m. The Council's external provider did not achieve delivery plan targets, resulting in spend slipping into 2026/27.
- Castle View care units, £0.732m slippage. The properties are completed and are in the progress of being furnished with a view to being ready to occupy by the end of April 2026.
- Furnished Homes, overspend by £0.231m due to increased demand for this service in year.

2.19.2 As part of the outturn position the following key outputs have been delivered.

- 4,042 adaptations works completed to private properties. Works include installation of level access showers, ramps, ceiling hoists, stairlifts, extensions, handrails, door widening and dropping of kerbs.

2.20 Assistant Chief Executive

2.20.1 The Assistant Chief Executive Capital Programme outturn had £0.171m of underspend and slippage against the approved budget of £0.439m.

2.20.2 As part of the outturn position the following key outputs have been delivered:

- 102 projects supported across the borough through the ward allocations, broken down as follows:-
  - North – 32 projects
  - South – 40 projects
  - Central – 30 projects

2.21 Finance and Customer Services

2.21.1 The Finance & Customer Services Capital Programme outturn had £2.618m of underspend and slippage against the approved budget of £11.057m. The main items contributing to this position are:

- Building Decarbonisation, slippage of £0.627m. This is due to additional design work which has needed approval. The Riverside House Canopy has been designed but is being reviewed due to site concerns relating to the turning circles at the far end of the canopy. This is therefore being reviewed with technical colleagues in the Design Team.
- Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure, slippage of £0.216m. This is due to delays in awarding the contract and additional work required by Northern Powergrid.
- Rotherham Markets solar panels, £0.1m saving. The Council held a small contingency for this scheme which has not been required.
- Education Information Technology (IT) replacement project, £0.77m slippage. This is an ongoing 2 year programme of work and initial recruitment to the project team took longer than expected.
- Financial Information Technology (IT) replacement project, £0.220m slippage. This is an ongoing 2 year programme of work and project go live has slipped into Autumn 2026.
- Community Facilities, £0.299m slippage. This scheme is making improvements to community facilities; additional design work and additional asbestos surveys have been required.
- Strategic Acquisitions, £0.151m slippage. This funding is being held to support work to deliver the Gateway Station.
- Waverley Medical Centre, £0.509m slippage. Work is fully completed but agreement on the final account is yet to be finalised and paid.

2.21.2 As part of the outturn position the following key outputs have been delivered:

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Digital Investment

- Replacement of the Council's data back-up capability, providing a single, robust, and secure data recovery solution aligned with industry best-practice.
- Procurement and installation of a replacement virtual compute platform, providing server/data processing capacity for the next 5 years.
- Delivered a programme of end-user laptop, monitor and mobile phone refresh, alongside provision of new equipment totalling over £1.2m.
- Procured and implemented a replacement IT Service Desk system, with a scheduled go-live in quarter 1 2026/27.
- Introduced new and standardised hybrid meeting room capability within Riverside House.
- Implemented a digital social care records system for use in adult social care settings and the Reablement Service.

Property and Facilities

- Civic Theatre – flat roof, windows to annexe and theatre renewed and new LED lighting installed.
- Cranworth Centre - windows replaced.
- Herringthorpe Stadium – track repairs completed.
- Waleswood Caravan Park – pitch repairs completed.
- Holy Trinity Church – boundary wall works completed.
- Moorgate Crofts – roofing repairs completed.
- Rotherham Markets – solar panels installed.
- Waverley Medical Centre - now built and operational.

2.22 Regeneration & Environment

2.22.1 The Regeneration & Environment Capital Programme outturn had slippage of £4.781m against the approved budget of £65.438m. The main variances contributing to this position were:

Planning, Regeneration and Transport

- Major road schemes, £1.783m slippage. There are a number of major road schemes that are ongoing and will run into 2026/27 due to more challenging requirements for design and consultation.

- Forge Island Commercial Development, slippage of £0.962m. The project is complete and the slippage relates to the fit out of the remaining unoccupied units which is driven by the successful delivery of new tenants.

- Business Centres at Century and Matrix, £0.348m slippage. Work is ongoing to install fire stopping works, lighting, toilet refurbishment and roofing works. The cost of the firestopping works was higher than expected once work was scoped and procured and this required additional approval before work could be awarded. In addition, the roofing works were more extensive than expected and it was advised by the contractor that work is not carried out until there was better weather.

- Wath Regeneration £0.363m and Healthcare Hub Phase 1 £0.541m, accelerated spend. Both projects had budget slipped into 2026/27 earlier in the year but have now commenced delivery sooner than planned.

Culture, Sport and Tourism

- Treeton Saint Helen's Church, £0.139m slippage. Work is completed but the final account is to be agreed and paid.

- Playgrounds, £0.133m slippage. One site is completed and three more will complete in 2026/27.

Community Safety & Streetscene

- Drainage and flood alleviation programme, slippage of £1.66m. This has been caused by unexpected complexities in the design process and ongoing negotiations for access to land for surveys.

- Street Lighting Programme, £0.306m slippage. This is an ongoing programme to replace street lighting and signs which become obsolete during the year.

2.22.2 As part of the outturn position the following key outputs have been delivered:

Planning, Regeneration and Transport

- Landscaping works have been completed at Snail Yard Pocket Park and the site has been opened to the public.

- Thrybergh Country Park's Lakeside Cafe opened to the public 12th February 2026. The inside has been extensively refurbished, with a new outdoor terrace looking out across the lake. The refurbished building includes fully accessible toilets and entrances for people with mobility needs.

- Park and Ride facility at Parkgate became operational in May 2025.

- Town Centre Regeneration – Opening of the first eateries at Forge Island in April and July 2025 respectively.

- Completion of the phase one £4 million Towns and Villages Fund programme. Work at Brinsworth has now completed which concludes the Towns & Villages programme.

- 50 shopfront grants have been offered to businesses, to help boost appearance of high streets and encourage business footfall. 48 have been accepted across the town centre, Dinnington and Maltby. This greatly exceeds the target of 20.

- Work with regional partners to support South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) in their work to develop the Outline Business Case for the new railway station at Waverley has taken place, and work is on track with expected completion of an outline business case in March 2027.

- A new tram-train stop opened at Magna on 9th April 2026, with long-term aims of increasing access to economic activity. The station provides a modern and accessible gateway to the Magna Science Adventure Centre in Rotherham and strengthens public transport links between Rotherham and Sheffield.

- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) Broom and Fitzwilliam Transport schemes have both gone out to second rounds of consultation, including proposals for investment in neighbourhood streets.

- West Bawtry Road structure was completed on 6th March 2026.

Culture, Sport and Tourism

- Waleswood Caravan and Camping Park - Tent Field Drainage, with extra drainage added due to wet spots and 10 x caravan pitches resurfaced.

- Water Splash facility at Clifton Park - The water splash facility at Clifton Park opened to the public on the week commencing 21st July 2025.

- Redevelopment works at Rother Valley Country Park have been completed, with the Waterfront Café and Events Space now open to the public. The new venue, offering stunning waterfront views and a first-floor events space with balcony, has been warmly received by visitors and is currently nominated for two design awards. Parking facilities have also been expanded and upgraded.

- Redevelopment works at Thrybergh Country Park have been completed, including improved access and play facilities, with new accessible pathways around the lake and a fully refurbished play area. The refurbished café also opened in February 2026, offering a contemporary breakfast, brunch and afternoon menu, alongside afternoon tea, Sunday lunches and event catering.

- The target to plant 500 trees was exceeded, with 710 planted in quarters three and four, an increase on the previous year's total of 597.

- Herringthorpe and Rosehill Tennis Courts have been surfaced with fencing completed, and nets, posts and line markings installed.

- As a part of the Children's Playground Programme, Thrybergh Country Park and Rosehill are now complete. Facilities are fully accessible and free, so provide an affordable day out option for families to enjoy.

Community Safety & Streetscene

- The Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Team has progressed with the development of two Video Management Software (VMS) prototypes, which will be installed and tested over the early part of 2026/27. The learning gained from this work will directly inform and strengthen the final procurement exercise and delivery.

- The CCTV Team have collaborated with The Council's Principal Drainage Officer to purchase and deploy cameras across nine locations within the borough, with the purpose of monitoring and recording flood-risk areas to inform planning and strengthen flood response. A further ten locations are now being considered following the success of the initiative.

- Rotherham Council has been named one of the best in the country for pothole repairs, road condition, smart investment and best practice.

- The Council has repaired 94 footways including Micro Asphalt surface treatment and resurfacing schemes, as a part of the Highway Repair Programme 2025/26.

- The repair of 124 unclassified roads has been delivered this year. Unclassified roads are rated 70.97% in good (green) condition status, above the 65% target and better than national average.

- Completed new CCTV installations at College Road (9th March), improving visibility at Vicarage Lane and enhancing town centre coverage.

- In the last 12 months delivered 220 CCTV installations borough-wide, improving crime deterrence, supporting investigations and convictions, and providing strong value for money by aligning investment with risk, intelligence and community safety priorities.

2.23 Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

2.23.1 The HRA Capital Programme outturn had a variance of £3.780m against the approved budget of £67.065m. The main variances contributing to this position were:

- Adaptations to public sector homes, £0.510m overspend. This is a demand led service delivering mandatory major adaptations to Council owned homes. Demand has been higher than budgeted for and the Council have also seen an increase in material costs and the complexity of jobs.

- Environmental work, £0.262m slippage. Excessive bad weather has caused phase 4 of the programme to be delayed and work will now take place slightly later than planned and carry into 2026/27.

- External works, £2.186m underspend. The Council commenced the Warm Homes scheme delivery in early 2026. This was delayed due to Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) providing the grant agreements later than expected. It is expected that the Council would need to repay the grant that it has not spent in year to DESNZ.

- Structural works, £0.667m overspend. There has been an increased number of properties requiring structural works during the year.

- Information Communication Technology (ICT) upgrade, £0.362m slippage. The upgrade of the ICT system for document management is ongoing and will now be completed in 2026.

- Major Voids, £1.781m overspend. This spend is required to bring properties back to a lettable standard. The overspend is due to higher void costs than

anticipated due to a need to replace high value items such as kitchens and bathrooms.

- New Build programme, £2.153m slippage. A number of schemes including Addison Road, Maltby, Bushfield Road and Valley Drive are underway and will continue into 2026-27, however they have not progressed as quickly as hoped.

- Refurbishments of existing homes, £1.142m underspend. The programme has seen some savings due to lower cost for work, omitted properties and right to buy properties which are excluded from the programme once an application is made to buy the property.

- Strategic Acquisitions, £0.342m underspend. This is an ongoing programme to purchase properties completed on the open market. Some schemes will see the properties complete in 2026/27 including those at Poppyfields and Sorby Park. The Council does not control when private developers complete the schemes.

2.23.2 As part of the outturn position the following key outputs have been delivered:

Strategic Housing Growth and Development Programme

- Over £12m secured in external grant funding to support the Housing Delivery Programme. This represents a 100% success rate and exceeds the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan Assumption for non-HRA funding by more than £2m.

- 114 homes delivered in year with HRA capital investment. The Strategic Housing And Development Team had a target to deliver 100 new homes this financial year, which has been exceeded. This was made up of 41 Market Acquisitions, 44 Section 106 Acquisitions, and 29 new homes delivered by the Council on Council Owned sites.

- The Council new build schemes at West Melton (10 homes) and Ship Inn (4 homes) delivered over 100% of their commitment on Social Value. Developers supported the growth of responsible regional businesses and invested in the local supply chain as part of the project.

- Delivery of 13 new homes at Canklow, Warden Street as part of a joint development with Adult Social Care. The scheme included a 4-bedroom bungalow for families on the Housing Register with acute needs. The strategic assets will not only provide rental income but fit-for-purpose accommodation to meet the needs of vulnerable residents.

- Days to let reduced for new build homes (Small and Medium Enterprise (SME), Section 106, Council Build) has reduced to 12.4 days, compared to 25.8 days in July. This decreases risk, increases income to the Housing Revenue Account, and decreases additional costs related to empty sites (for example, site security).

- As of the end of March 2026, 788 new homes have been delivered. The Council are on track to deliver their 800th new home in April 2026.

Improvements and investment in Council Housing stock

(note - outputs subject to slight change pending agreement on final account)

- 266 properties had replacement kitchens and/or bathrooms and associated electric works.

- A total of 1,654 properties have had replacement boilers and/or central heating systems. A total of 5 properties had work carried out to their district heating system and one site had boiler house upgrade works.

- 492 properties had their thermal efficiency increased by loft insulation top ups.

- 460 properties received over £5,000 investment to bring them back to a lettable standard via the major void process.

- 628 properties have had external work improvements which can include work to the roof, rainwater goods and soffits and facias.

- 134 properties have had structural works undertaken.

- 2,104 properties have had additional ventilation work and an additional 75 properties have had damp and mould treatment / works. A further 60 properties have had humidity sensors installed which will prevent and give early warning of potential damp and mould issues in future.

- 104 fire doors have been replaced across the estate.

- 2,497 properties have received adaptations work which can include handrails and grabrails to a full level access wet room / shower facility. The adaptations will allow customers to remain living independently in their homes.

- The environmental programme delivered 8 schemes across the borough. These included redesigning paths and steps around stock, repairing of boundary walls, resurfacing housing owned parking areas, landscaping of communal planting and relocation of bin pads away from properties to reduce potential fire spread to properties.

2.24 Funding of the Capital Programme 2025/26

2.24.1 £150.614m of capital expenditure was funded as shown in the table below:

Table 7 Funding of the Capital Programme 2025/26

Funding Stream	Outturn £m
Grants and Contributions	40.867
Unsupported Borrowing	43.466
Capital Receipts	0.867
Revenue Contributions	0.138
Total Funding - General Fund	**85.338**
Grants and Contributions	7.474
Unsupported Borrowing	20.986
Housing Major Repairs Allowance	23.551
Useable Capital Receipts	3.808
Revenue Contributions	9.457
Total Funding - HRA	**65.276**
Total	**150.614**

2.24.2 **Capital Receipts Outturn 2025-26**

2.24.3 The Council is continuing to undertake a comprehensive review of its assets and buildings portfolio with the aim of rationalising both its operational and non-operational asset holdings. This may contribute future capital receipts which are earmarked to support the revenue budget, in accordance with the Council's approved flexible use of capital receipts strategy.

2.24.4 In 2025/26 General Fund Capital receipts of £0.938m have been generated as shown in the table below. Although £0.074m of this was for loan repayments, these cannot be used to support the revenue budget as only those receipts for the disposal of property, plant and equipment can be used in that way.

Table 8 – General Fund Capital Receipts Received in 2025/26

Description	Total as at 31st March 2026 £m
Miscellaneous	-0.864
Total Capital Receipts (Excluding loan repayments)	**-0.864**
Repayment of Loans	-0.074
Total Capital Receipts	**-0.938**

2.24.5 Although capital receipts were generated in this financial year they were utilised to fund the expenditure on short life assets in order to reduce borrowing costs which is a more favourable overall outcome for the Council.

2.25 Updated Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30

2.25.1 The Capital Programme 2026/27 has been reset at £180.682m split between the General Fund £109.727m and HRA £70.955m.

2.25.2 The 2026/27 programme has decreased overall by £30.224m from the position reported to Cabinet in February 2026. The movement is based on the latest profiles of expenditure against schemes, following the 2025/26 outturn position, factoring in slippage from 2025/26 and new grant funding.

Table 9: Updated Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30

Directorate	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**2028/29**	**2029/30**	**Total**
	Budget	**Budget**	**Budget**	**Budget**	**Budget**
	£m	**£m**	**£m**	**£m**	**£m**
General Fund Capital					
Children and Young People's Services	12.132	9.962	14.389	7.020	43.503
Regeneration and Environment	74.427	56.381	10.834	2.582	144.224
Adult Care & Housing	7.449	7.760	6.927	1.760	23.896
Policy, Strategy and Engagement	0.630	0.210	0.210	0.210	1.260
Corporate Services	15.089	27.305	17.868	7.805	68.067
Total General Fund Capital	**109.727**	**101.618**	**50.228**	**19.377**	**280.950**
Total HRA Capital	70.955	61.557	57.256	127.862	317.630
Total RMBC Capital Programme	**180.682**	**163.175**	**107.484**	**147.239**	**598.580**

Table 10: Funding of the approved Capital Programme

Funding Stream	2026/27 Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Budget	2029/30 Budget	Total Budget
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Grants and Contributions	56.032	44.460	13.967	3.400	117.859
Unsupported Borrowing	53.555	57.015	36.115	15.977	162.662
Revenue Contribution	0.140	0.143	0.146	0.000	0.429
Total Funding - General Fund	**109.727**	**101.618**	**50.228**	**19.377**	**280.950**
Grants and Contributions	6.536	6.188	0.000	15.246	27.970
Unsupported Borrowing	1.036	15.282	20.488	58.362	95.168
Housing Major Repairs Allowance	32.416	27.803	28.768	29.555	118.542
Capital Receipts	14.779	4.736	0.000	15.741	35.256
Revenue Contribution	16.188	7.548	8.000	8.958	40.694
Total Funding - HRA	**70.955**	**61.557**	**57.256**	**127.862**	**317.630**
Total	**180.682**	**163.175**	**107.484**	**147.239**	**598.580**

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 This detail is set out in Section 2 above.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 None identified.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The Executive Director of Corporate Services is responsible for implementing any actions arising from the supported recommendations in this report.

5.2 These should be actioned at the earliest opportunity to aid the monitoring of the 2026/27 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 As set out in the sections above.

6.2 Project specific procurement implications are included in the main body of this report. There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 No direct HR implications arising from this report. It is noted that there are some recruitment challenges in some specialist areas which will continue to be considered further as part of workforce planning.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 No direct implications.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 This is a finance update report, providing a review of the Council's outturn position for 2025/26. Any equalities and human rights impacts from service delivery have been or are detailed as service budgets and capital projects are pulled together for inclusion within the Council's revenue budget or Capital Programme.

10.2 An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) has been completed and is attached as Appendix 2.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 No direct implications.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 No direct implications.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are increasing cost pressures associated with the rising demand for social care services. The Council will continue to closely monitor its financial position throughout the year and if required will implement appropriate mitigations.

13.2 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy will be revised and updated later in the year to reflect the estimated outcomes of any economic pressures that are impacting the Council's costs such as inflation and energy prices along with revised resources.

14. Accountable Officers

Rob Mahon, Service Director – Financial Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	19/06/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	12/06/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	17/06/26

Report Author: Rob Mahon, Service Director – Financial Services
01709 254518 or rob.mahon@rotherham.gov.uk

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Capital Programme General Fund 2026/27 to 2030/31

Directorate	Current Year Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Budget	2029/30 Budget	Total Project Budget
Adult Care & Housing	7,449,473	7,759,576	6,926,976	1,760,000	23,896,025
Children & Young Peoples Serv	12,131,646	9,962,190	14,389,224	7,019,842	43,502,902
Corporate Services	15,089,314	27,305,701	17,867,892	7,804,436	68,067,343
Policy, Strategy and Engagemen	629,504	210,040	210,040	210,040	1,259,624
Regeneration & Environment	74,427,401	56,380,799	10,833,511	2,581,995	144,223,706
Total	**109,727,338**	**101,618,306**	**50,227,643**	**19,376,313**	**280,949,600**

Funding:

Funding Stream	Current Year Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Budget	2029/30 Budget	Total Project Budget
4) Grants and Contributions	56,032,339	44,460,201	13,966,964	3,399,725	117,859,229
6) Revenue Contributions	140,000	143,000	146,000	0	429,000
7) Unsupported Borrowing-C	47,480,326	49,664,857	33,543,261	14,216,588	144,905,032
8) Unsupported Borrowing-S	6,074,673	7,350,248	2,571,418	1,760,000	17,756,339
Total	**109,727,338**	**101,618,306**	**50,227,643**	**19,376,313**	**280,949,600**

Capital Programme General Fund 2026/27 to 2030/31

Directorate	Service	Service Area	Sub Service	Project	Current Year Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Budget	2029/30 Budget	Total Project Budget
Adult Care & Housing	Adult Services	Adult Services	Assistive Technology	Assistive Technology Equipment	801,733	680,000	0	0	1,481,733
				Rothercare Digital Switchover	1,036,339	0	0	0	1,036,339
				Sub-Service Total	**1,838,072**	**680,000**	**0**	**0**	**2,518,072**
			Extra Care Housing	Castle View Adult Care Units	467,441	998,358	0	0	1,465,799
				Castle View Day Care Centre	925,160	366,953	0	0	1,292,113
				LD accommodation	0	1,567,265	0	0	1,567,265
				Sub-Service Total	**1,392,601**	**2,932,576**	**0**	**0**	**4,325,177**
			REWS Equipment	REWS Capital	190,000	190,000	0	0	380,000
				Sub-Service Total	**190,000**	**190,000**	**0**	**0**	**380,000**
			Service Area Total		**3,420,673**	**3,802,576**	**0**	**0**	**7,223,249**
		Service Total			**3,420,673**	**3,802,576**	**0**	**0**	**7,223,249**
	Neighbourhood Capital Programm	Fair Access to All	Aids and Adaptations (Private	Adapts - LOT1 - Private Majr	441,884	0	0	0	441,884
				Adapts - LOT1 - Private Minr	233,001	0	0	0	233,001
				Adapts - LOT2 - Private Majr	336,647	0	0	0	336,647
				Adapts - LOT2 - Private Minr	202,045	0	0	0	202,045
				Adapts - OTHERS - Private Majr	604,933	0	0	0	604,933
				Adapts Extensions PRIVATES	378,490	0	0	0	378,490
				Private Adaps Bud Unall	0	2,197,000	2,197,000	0	4,394,000
				Sub-Service Total	**2,197,000**	**2,197,000**	**2,197,000**	**0**	**6,591,000**
			Service Area Total		**2,197,000**	**2,197,000**	**2,197,000**	**0**	**6,591,000**
		Neighbourhd Regeneration & Re	Monksbridge Demolition	Monksbridge, Dinnington	71,800	0	0	0	71,800
				Sub-Service Total	**71,800**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**71,800**
			Service Area Total		**71,800**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**71,800**
		Service Total			**2,268,800**	**2,197,000**	**2,197,000**	**0**	**6,662,800**
	Neighbourhood Improvements - N	Neighbourhood Improvements Non	Furnished Homes CPTL	Furnished Homes New CPTL	1,600,000	1,600,000	1,600,000	1,600,000	6,400,000
				Furnished Homes Replace CPTL	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000	640,000
				Sub-Service Total	**1,760,000**	**1,760,000**	**1,760,000**	**1,760,000**	**7,040,000**
			N'bourhood Grants Unallocated	N'Hoods Grants Unallocated	0	0	2,969,976	0	2,969,976
				Sub-Service Total	**0**	**0**	**2,969,976**	**0**	**2,969,976**
			Service Area Total		**1,760,000**	**1,760,000**	**4,729,976**	**1,760,000**	**10,009,976**
		Service Total			**1,760,000**	**1,760,000**	**4,729,976**	**1,760,000**	**10,009,976**
	Directorate Total				**7,449,473**	**7,759,576**	**6,926,976**	**1,760,000**	**23,896,025**
Children & Young Peoples Serv	CYPS - RMBC	Other CYPS	Children & Families	Adaptations - Foster Care	300,000	640,000	1,179,236	1,350,117	3,469,353
				CYPS Resi Home Unallocated	66,449	0	0	0	66,449
				CYPS RESI PH II Middle Lane	28,172	0	0	0	28,172
				CYPS RESI PH III-Narrow Lane	84,014	0	0	0	84,014
				Family Help Mobile Units	280,000	0	0	0	280,000
				In House Chld's Resi-vehicles	0	0	140,000	0	140,000
				In House Resi Complex Needs	68,000	0	0	0	68,000
				Wraparound Childcare grants	284,177	0	0	0	284,177
				Sub-Service Total	**1,110,812**	**640,000**	**1,319,236**	**1,350,117**	**4,420,165**
			Kitchens - Schools	Crowden Outdoor Act Kitchen	20,766	0	0	0	20,766
				Sub-Service Total	**20,766**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**20,766**
			Service Area Total		**1,131,578**	**640,000**	**1,319,236**	**1,350,117**	**4,440,931**

		Schools	Schools - Capitalised Enh	Aston Fence Pri- Fencing	52,586	0	0	0	52,586
				Badsley Moor PR New Boiler	112,179	0	0	0	112,179
				Badsley Moor Pri - Flat Roof	30,000	0	0	0	30,000
				Blackburn Pri - Basement	7,945	0	0	0	7,945
				Blackbutn Pri - Toilet Blocks	79,894	0	0	0	79,894
				Broom Valley Pr - Heat/Water	252,275	0	0	0	252,275
				Capitalised Enhancements Unall	1,131,332	750,000	850,000	850,000	3,581,332
				CEN Asbestos removal works	33,772	0	0	0	33,772
				Eastwood Village Latent Defect	22,698	0	0	0	22,698
				Herringthorpe Pri-Security Imp	16,952	0	0	0	16,952
				Rawmarsh Aspire - Roof	92,451	0	0	0	92,451
				R'hillFenc,Drainage,SportsHall	10,738	0	0	0	10,738
				R'Marsh Rosehill - Ph2 Fencing	23,874	0	0	0	23,874
				Todwick Fire Alarm	80,000	0	0	0	80,000
				Wales Primary Fire Safety imps	10,657	0	0	0	10,657
				Sub-Service Total	**1,957,353**	**750,000**	**850,000**	**850,000**	**4,407,353**
			Schools - Prims - Major	Todwick Nursery	253,491	0	0	0	253,491
				Waverley Jnr Primary Sch Ph II	77,191	0	0	0	77,191
				Sub-Service Total	**330,682**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**330,682**
			Schools - Secs - Major	Secondary BUDGET UNALLOC	0	0	5,829,988	0	5,829,988
				Sub-Service Total	**0**	**0**	**5,829,988**	**0**	**5,829,988**
			Schools - Spcls - Major	Newman (Dinnington), Refurb	1,124,204	0	0	0	1,124,204
				Newman Whiston	1,285,927	0	0	0	1,285,927
				SEND PH III Dinnington Adaptat	1,535	0	0	0	1,535
				SEND Ph IV - Wales Res Cen	468,551	0	0	0	468,551
				SEND Ph IV - W'hill Res Cen	79,795	0	0	0	79,795
				Send Ph IV ? Pru Rawmarsh	318,642	0	0	0	318,642
				SEND Ph IV- Mainstream Sch Acc	271,117	0	0	0	271,117
				Special BUDGET UNALLOC	3,400,000	6,182,190	2,000,000	2,000,000	13,582,190
				Sub-Service Total	**6,949,771**	**6,182,190**	**2,000,000**	**2,000,000**	**17,131,961**
			Schools PFI Life Cycle Program	Schools PFI Life Cycle Program	1,639,898	2,270,000	4,270,000	2,270,000	10,449,898
				Sub-Service Total	**1,639,898**	**2,270,000**	**4,270,000**	**2,270,000**	**10,449,898**
			Service Area Total		**10,877,704**	**9,202,190**	**12,949,988**	**5,120,000**	**38,149,882**
		Service Total			**12,009,282**	**9,842,190**	**14,269,224**	**6,470,117**	**42,590,813**
	DFC	DFC - RMBC	DFC - RMBC all	DFCG Unallocated	122,364	120,000	120,000	549,725	912,089
				Sub-Service Total	**122,364**	**120,000**	**120,000**	**549,725**	**912,089**
			Service Area Total		**122,364**	**120,000**	**120,000**	**549,725**	**912,089**
		Service Total			**122,364**	**120,000**	**120,000**	**549,725**	**912,089**
	Directorate Total				**12,131,646**	**9,962,190**	**14,389,224**	**7,019,842**	**43,502,902**
Corporate Services	F&CS (DUMMY)	F&CS	F&CS - REFCUS	Capital Inflation Contingency	0	0	10,563,633	2,150,000	12,713,633
				Sub-Service Total	**0**	**0**	**10,563,633**	**2,150,000**	**12,713,633**
			Service Area Total		**0**	**0**	**10,563,633**	**2,150,000**	**12,713,633**
		Service Total			**0**	**0**	**10,563,633**	**2,150,000**	**12,713,633**
	ICT & Digital Investment	Directorate ICT Investments	Directorate ICT Investments	Archives & Studies D'tal Upgra	22,000	0	0	0	22,000
				Comm Safe&SS-Cust &DigitalPlan	191,000	511,168	0	0	702,168
				Education System Replacement	962,109	0	0	0	962,109
				Finl Systm Replacement Project	645,000	1,462,852	0	0	2,107,852
				Fleet of MFD printers	73,975	76,500	0	0	150,475
				HR System Replacement	0	500,000	1,000,000	0	1,500,000
				Libraries Network	79,283	0	0	0	79,283
				Sub-Service Total	**1,973,367**	**2,550,520**	**1,000,000**	**0**	**5,523,887**
			Service Area Total		**1,973,367**	**2,550,520**	**1,000,000**	**0**	**5,523,887**
		ICT & Digital Strategy investm	ICT & Digital Strategy investm	Data Storage & Back-up	460,000	100,000	669,259	300,000	1,529,259

				Digital Innovation Fund	659,819	700,000	700,000	700,000	2,759,819
				Hardware Provisioning	1,471,401	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	5,971,401
				Network Equipment Refresh Proj	700,711	350,000	550,000	630,000	2,230,711
				Replacement of server equip	90,000	250,000	400,000	439,436	1,179,436
				Sub-Service Total	**3,381,931**	**2,900,000**	**3,819,259**	**3,569,436**	**13,670,626**
			Service Area Total		**3,381,931**	**2,900,000**	**3,819,259**	**3,569,436**	**13,670,626**
		Service Total			**5,355,298**	**5,450,520**	**4,819,259**	**3,569,436**	**19,194,513**
	Property & Facilities	Corp Property Unit	Corporate Property Cap Proj	Customer Digitalisation - AM	75,294	0	0	0	75,294
				Sub-Service Total	**75,294**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**75,294**
			Decarbonisation & Energy	Building Decarbonisation	1,000,000	5,237,343	0	0	6,237,343
				Electric Vehicle Charge Infras	500,000	744,789	0	0	1,244,789
				ElecVeh ChargingInfraExpansion	300,000	476,968	0	0	776,968
				Energy Saving Measure (B)	205,201	0	0	0	205,201
				LA Energy Saving Measures-(A)	82,044	0	0	0	82,044
				Renewable Energy Proof of Conc	200,000	400,000	400,000	0	1,000,000
				Rotherham Markets Solar Panels	55,000	44,718	0	0	99,718
				Sub-Service Total	**2,342,245**	**6,903,818**	**400,000**	**0**	**9,646,063**
			FM and Operational Buildings	BarbotHallIndEst-Cliff face	524,227	0	0	0	524,227
				C' Theatre LED StageLighting R	62	0	0	0	62
				C.Theatre RoofsWindowsAnnexe	71,939	0	0	0	71,939
				Corp Landlord Furn. Replacem.	50,000	0	0	0	50,000
				Cranworth Centre - Windows	19,990	0	0	0	19,990
				Cranworth Centre Underpinning	100,000	0	0	0	100,000
				Davies Court Fire Alarm	128,581	0	0	0	128,581
				Dawson Croft - Lift	35,000	0	0	0	35,000
				Herringthorpe Stadium - track	2,498	0	0	0	2,498
				Kimberworth The Place - Roof	226,992	0	0	0	226,992
				Kiveton Park Depot - Gate&Stor	42,079	0	0	0	42,079
				Lord Hardy Court - Windows	245,715	0	0	0	245,715
				Miscellaneous Minor Works	118,718	0	0	0	118,718
				Ops Buildings Cap Inv	2,024,401	2,010,000	2,010,000	2,010,000	8,054,401
				Riverside House - CCTV	70,000	0	0	0	70,000
				Riverside Replacement of UPS	120,000	0	0	0	120,000
				Rother Valley - Toilet Upgrade	200,331	0	0	0	200,331
				RsideHouse Furniture Replacemt	698	0	0	0	698
				Signage	15,000	0	0	0	15,000
				StLeonardChurch Din-Bound Wall	24,070	0	0	0	24,070
				StMarys BoundaryWallRepairs	8,202	0	0	0	8,202
				Wellgate Retaining Wall	106,146	105,854	0	0	212,000
				Sub-Service Total	**4,134,649**	**2,115,854**	**2,010,000**	**2,010,000**	**10,270,503**
			Property and Estates	Commercial Property Cap	549,836	75,000	75,000	75,000	774,836
				Community Facilities	1,169,432	0	0	0	1,169,432
				Demo of units 86-102 Wellgate	182,686	0	0	0	182,686
				Rotherham Station QTR	490,000	10,890,000	0	0	11,380,000
				Strategic Acquisitions Fund	280,912	1,870,509	0	0	2,151,421
				Waverley Medical Centre	508,962	0	0	0	508,962
				Sub-Service Total	**3,181,828**	**12,835,509**	**75,000**	**75,000**	**16,167,337**
			Service Area Total		**9,734,016**	**21,855,181**	**2,485,000**	**2,085,000**	**36,159,197**
		Service Total			**9,734,016**	**21,855,181**	**2,485,000**	**2,085,000**	**36,159,197**
	Directorate Total				**15,089,314**	**27,305,701**	**17,867,892**	**7,804,436**	**68,067,343**

Policy, Strategy and Engagemen	Policy, Strategy and Engagemen	Policy, Strategy and Engagemen	Policy, Strategy and Engagemen	Aston & Todwick	21,060	7,120	7,120	7,120	42,420
				Aughton & Swallownest	10,354	7,120	7,120	7,120	31,714
				Bramley & Ravenfeild	13,231	7,120	7,120	7,120	34,591
				Brinsworth	17,690	7,120	7,120	7,120	39,050
				Capt'l Inv't Ward Anst wdsetts	26,595	10,680	10,680	10,680	58,635
				Capt'l Inv't-Ward - Bostn Ctle	13,743	10,680	10,680	10,680	45,783
				Capt'l Inv't-Ward - Dinnington	23,571	10,680	10,680	10,680	55,611
				Capt'l Inv't-Ward - Hoober	24,691	10,680	10,680	10,680	56,731
				Capt'l Inv't-Ward - Keppel	24,649	10,680	10,680	10,680	56,689
				Capt'l Inv't-Ward - Roth East	14,360	10,680	10,680	10,680	46,400
				Capt'l Inv't-Ward - Roth West	21,379	10,680	10,680	10,680	53,419
				Capt'l Inv't-Ward - RotherVale	16,093	7,120	7,120	7,120	37,453
				Capt'l Inv't-Ward - Sitwell	24,715	10,680	10,680	10,680	56,755
				Capt'l Inv't-Ward - Wales	9,173	7,120	7,120	7,120	30,533
				Capt'l Inv't-Ward - Wath	10,102	7,120	7,120	7,120	31,462
				Dalton & Thrybergh	21,360	7,120	7,120	7,120	42,720
				Greasborough	14,669	7,120	7,120	7,120	36,029
				Hellaby & Maltby West	16,000	7,120	7,120	7,120	37,360
				Hoober CIL	129,687	0	0	0	129,687
				Keppel - CIL	12,627	0	0	0	12,627
				Kilnhurst & Swinton East	16,530	7,120	7,120	7,120	37,890
				Maltby East	19,524	7,120	7,120	7,120	40,884
				Rawmarsh East	10,702	7,120	7,120	7,120	32,062
					887	0	0	0	887
				Rawmarsh West	15,319	7,120	7,120	7,120	36,679
				Rotherham East - CIL	331	0	0	0	331
				Rotherham West - CIL	6,968	0	0	0	6,968
				Sitwell - CIL	36,719	0	0	0	36,719
				Swinton Rockingham	17,160	7,120	7,120	7,120	38,520
				Swinton & Rockinghon CIL	9,393	0	0	0	9,393
				Thurcroft & Wickersley South	4,415	7,120	7,120	7,120	25,775
				Wickersley North	25,807	10,680	10,680	10,680	57,847
				Sub-Service Total	**629,504**	**210,040**	**210,040**	**210,040**	**1,259,624**
			Service Area Total		**629,504**	**210,040**	**210,040**	**210,040**	**1,259,624**
		Service Total			**629,504**	**210,040**	**210,040**	**210,040**	**1,259,624**
	Directorate Total				**629,504**	**210,040**	**210,040**	**210,040**	**1,259,624**
Regeneration & Environment	Community Safety &Street Scene	Comm Safety Resilience & EP	Comm Safety Resilience & EP	Capital Licensing	100,000	100,000	100,000	200,000	500,000
				CCTV Upgrade&EnhanceCapabilty	78,406	0	0	0	78,406
				Sub-Service Total	**178,406**	**100,000**	**100,000**	**200,000**	**578,406**
			Service Area Total		**178,406**	**100,000**	**100,000**	**200,000**	**578,406**
		Network Management	Drainage	Catcliffe Treeton FAS-Bridge	850,000	1,150,000	4,000,000	0	6,000,000
				Culverts Renewal Programme	13,701	0	0	0	13,701
				Highway Drainage Repairs	447,254	300,000	0	0	747,254
				Parkgate & Rawmarsh FAS	296,227	0	0	0	296,227
				Property Flood Resilience	50,087	0	0	0	50,087
				Roth Ren. and Kilnhurst FAS	165,100	0	0	0	165,100
				Unallocated Flood Alleviation	0	3,557,613	0	0	3,557,613
				Whiston FAS Construction	6,500,000	0	0	0	6,500,000
				Sub-Service Total	**8,322,369**	**5,007,613**	**4,000,000**	**0**	**17,329,982**
			Highways Delivery	2020-2024 RoadsProgramme £24m	3,288,765	3,000,000	0	0	6,288,765
				Cap Rights of way	303,442	570,600	34,000	34,000	942,042
				Capitalisation Carriageways	291,836	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,791,836

				DfT LTP CarriagewayResurfacing	2,416,922	0	0	0	2,416,922
				Multi Hog Works	301,432	300,000	300,000	300,000	1,201,432
				Pavement Improvements	1,608,478	1,200,000	0	0	2,808,478
				Sub-Service Total	**8,210,875**	**5,570,600**	**834,000**	**834,000**	**15,449,475**
			Parking Services	Wellgate Cpark Ret. Wall	34,260	0	0	0	34,260
				Sub-Service Total	**34,260**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**34,260**
			Street Lighting	Cap benches signs bollards	80,462	75,000	75,000	75,000	305,462
				Capitalisation Lighting	399,460	150,000	150,000	150,000	849,460
				Replace Obsolete Strt Lighting	52,187	40,000	40,000	40,000	172,187
				St Lighting LTP 15/16 - 19/20	200,000	0	0	0	200,000
				Sub-Service Total	**732,109**	**265,000**	**265,000**	**265,000**	**1,527,109**
			Service Area Total		**17,299,613**	**10,843,213**	**5,099,000**	**1,099,000**	**34,340,826**
		Regulation & Enforcement	Regulation & Enforcement	Carhill Landfill Site	45,000	0	0	0	45,000
				Sub-Service Total	**45,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**45,000**
			Service Area Total		**45,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**45,000**
		Street Scene Services	Community Delivery	Addit'nal ZonalCleansingVehs	210,000	0	0	0	210,000
				Cap damaged litter bins	120,872	85,600	85,600	86,000	378,072
				Plant Equipment Refresh G&S	514,288	0	0	0	514,288
				Street Scene Equip / Vehicles	106,387	0	0	0	106,387
				Sub-Service Total	**951,547**	**85,600**	**85,600**	**86,000**	**1,208,747**
			Corporate Transport	Fleet Asset Improvements	253,991	0	0	0	253,991
				Fleet Mgt System	40,928	0	0	0	40,928
				Fleet Mgt Vehicle Purchase	4,700,000	5,149,383	0	0	9,849,383
				Route Optimisation - ITS	101,700	11,700	11,700	12,000	137,100
				Sub-Service Total	**5,096,619**	**5,161,083**	**11,700**	**12,000**	**10,281,402**
			Waste Management	Bins	659,652	375,000	375,000	375,000	1,784,652
				HWRCs	164,022	899,533	0	0	1,063,555
				Sub-Service Total	**823,674**	**1,274,533**	**375,000**	**375,000**	**2,848,207**
			Service Area Total		**6,871,840**	**6,521,216**	**472,300**	**473,000**	**14,338,356**
		Service Total			**24,394,859**	**17,464,429**	**5,671,300**	**1,772,000**	**49,302,588**
	Culture, Sport & Tourism	Creative Prog and Engagement	Green Spaces	Ash Dieback Mitigation - Trees	205,589	200,000	200,000	228,995	834,584
				Clifton Park Watersplash Repla	62,124	0	0	0	62,124
				CliftonPark GardenBldg Bar-ITS	16,083	0	8,917	0	25,000
				Country Parks Bun Code	33,000	0	0	0	33,000
				Green Spaces Bun Code	21,388	0	0	0	21,388
				Green Spaces Capital Repairs	122,798	90,000	60,000	0	272,798
				Play Equip Replacement Prog	753,627	876,590	0	0	1,630,217
				RVCP Automated Parking	1,761	0	0	0	1,761
				RVCP Safety Boats	2,200	0	0	0	2,200
				Thrybergh CP Paths Improvement	1,464	0	0	0	1,464
				Treeton St Helen Church Yard	138,565	0	0	0	138,565
				Ulley CP - Club House	41,319	200,000	0	0	241,319
				Ulley CP Main Building	250,000	750,000	0	0	1,000,000
				Waleswood Camp Site	1,494	0	0	0	1,494
				Sub-Service Total	**1,651,412**	**2,116,590**	**268,917**	**228,995**	**4,265,914**
			Heritage Services	Waterloo Kiln Preservation	51,887	0	0	0	51,887
				Sub-Service Total	**51,887**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**51,887**
			Service Area Total		**1,703,299**	**2,116,590**	**268,917**	**228,995**	**4,317,801**
		Ops and Business Transformatio	Libraries	Lib&NeighHub-Kimberworth Lib	449	0	0	0	449
				Lib&NeighHub-Swinton Lib	909	0	0	0	909
				Lib&NeighHub-ThorpeHesley Lib	137,811	0	0	0	137,811
				Lib&NeighHub-Thurcroft Lib	544	0	0	0	544
				Sub-Service Total	**139,713**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**139,713**

			Service Area Total		**139,713**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**139,713**
		Projects and Partnerships	Leisure and Sport	Active Lives / Play Zones	80,000	0	0	0	80,000
				Herringthorpe AthleticsStadium	450,000	0	0	0	450,000
				Herringthorpe Val Tennis Court	16,041	0	0	0	16,041
				Leisure PFI lifecycle	346,950	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,846,950
				Rosehill Park Tennis Court	16,768	0	0	0	16,768
				Sub-Service Total	**909,759**	**500,000**	**500,000**	**500,000**	**2,409,759**
			Service Area Total		**909,759**	**500,000**	**500,000**	**500,000**	**2,409,759**
		Service Total			**2,752,771**	**2,616,590**	**768,917**	**728,995**	**6,867,273**
	Planning, Regen & Transport	RIDO	Business Growth	Business Centre Upgrades	71,087	0	0	0	71,087
				Century 1 - Roof Replacement	563,280	0	0	0	563,280
				Century Electric Gate	49,154	0	0	0	49,154
				Century Toilet Refurb	271,686	0	0	0	271,686
				Firestopping Works	215,390	0	0	0	215,390
				Sub-Service Total	**1,170,597**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1,170,597**
			Inv & Economic Initiatives	Bassingthorpe Farm	243,003	254,687	0	0	497,690
				Bassingthorpe Farm Land Acq	0	489,816	0	0	489,816
				Forge Island Flood Defence	0	356,201	0	0	356,201
				HEHub&Rain - Aqu and Demo	0	71,818	0	0	71,818
				Public Realm Effingham Street	988,203	645,658	0	0	1,633,861
				RhamMarkets Redev (incCommHub)	11,108,984	5,303,027	4,312,294	0	20,724,305
				Riverside Gardens	4,649,249	1,264,631	0	0	5,913,880
				R'sidePrec't&Chantry Bldg Demo	0	62,734	0	0	62,734
				Swinton Library Demo	289,973	0	0	0	289,973
				Town Centre Investment	131,000	0	0	0	131,000
				Sub-Service Total	**17,410,412**	**8,448,572**	**4,312,294**	**0**	**30,171,278**
			RIDO	Civic Centres	700,000	0	0	0	700,000
				Corporation St Ph 2	87,722	0	0	0	87,722
				Corporation Street	350,000	1,223,423	0	0	1,573,423
				Dinnington RG	410,853	7,699,999	0	0	8,110,852
				Eldon Road Play Area	0	18,837	0	0	18,837
				Forge Island Comm Dev	961,557	0	0	0	961,557
				Healthcare Hub Ph1	509,998	426,777	0	0	936,775
				Healthcare Hub Ph2	200,173	0	0	0	200,173
				Maltby East	171,616	1,015,402	0	0	1,187,018
				Matlby Academy	4,648	0	0	0	4,648
				OPF Cenotaphs	288,990	0	0	0	288,990
				Our Places Fund	189,900	0	0	0	189,900
				Riverside Acquisitions	20	0	0	0	20
				Rotherham Gateway Acquisitions	8,221,930	0	0	0	8,221,930
				RotherValley CP	17,478	0	0	0	17,478
				Templeborough	3,350,091	4,326,008	0	0	7,676,099
				Thrybergh CP	27,495	0	0	0	27,495
				Town Centre Music Venue	300,000	1,844,746	0	0	2,144,746
				Water Lane Public Realm	284,637	595,438	0	0	880,075
				Wath RG	3,936,539	6,708,819	0	0	10,645,358
				Sub-Service Total	**20,013,647**	**23,859,449**	**0**	**0**	**43,873,096**
			Service Area Total		**38,594,656**	**32,308,021**	**4,312,294**	**0**	**75,214,971**
		Towns & Villages Fund	Towns & Villages Fund	Aston/Todwick	4,697	0	0	0	4,697
				Rother Vale	37,032	0	0	0	37,032
				Rotherham East	56,410	0	0	0	56,410
				Towns & Villages Fund Unall	1,082	0	0	0	1,082
				Sub-Service Total	**99,221**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**99,221**

			Service Area Total		**99,221**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**99,221**
		Transportation & Highways	Bridges	Eastwood Bridge	0	145,049	0	0	145,049
				Fleet Bridge Reconstruction	0	600,000	0	0	600,000
				Old Flatts Bridge	0	2,055,710	0	0	2,055,710
				Packman Road	24,487	0	0	0	24,487
				Structures Capital Programme	400,000	0	0	0	400,000
				Structures Maintenance	0	1,000,000	0	0	1,000,000
				West Bawtry Road Embankment	75,239	0	0	0	75,239
				Sub-Service Total	**499,726**	**3,800,759**	**0**	**0**	**4,300,485**
			Connectivity	A629WrtlyRd Grt Prk Rd Pedxing	8,195	0	0	0	8,195
				Catcliffe Crossing	225,000	0	0	0	225,000
				CRSTS Crossing Prioty Schemes	13,929	0	0	0	13,929
				Pedestrian Crossings Pipeline	268,000	0	0	0	268,000
				Swallownest PedestrianCrossing	45,047	0	0	0	45,047
				Treeton Lane Crossroads	120,000	30,000	0	0	150,000
				Unallocated Connectivity	43,010	0	0	0	43,010
				Wath Road Brampton Crossing	181,091	0	0	0	181,091
				West Melton Ped Crossing	347,282	0	0	0	347,282
				Sub-Service Total	**1,251,554**	**30,000**	**0**	**0**	**1,281,554**
			CRSTS Local block funded	Capital Schemes M&E	105,982	0	0	0	105,982
				LNRS Bun Code	38,327	0	0	0	38,327
				LNRS1 - BRAMLEY 022A	2,290	0	0	0	2,290
				LNRS1 - BROOM VALLEY 023A	107,209	0	0	0	107,209
				LNRS1 - HIGHTHORNE RD KILNHURS	1,638	0	0	0	1,638
				LNRS1 - MALTBY CTR 020E	1,455	0	0	0	1,455
				LNRS1 - SWINTON 003F	15,683	0	0	0	15,683
				LNRS1 - WICKERSLEY WOOD 022B	1,839	0	0	0	1,839
				LNRS2 BRINSWORTH	111,016	0	0	0	111,016
				LNRS2 WATH	105,185	0	0	0	105,185
				LNRS2 AUGHTON & SWALLOWNEST	104,603	0	0	0	104,603
				LNRS2 DALTON & THRYBERGH	80,123	0	0	0	80,123
				LNRS2 DINNINGTON	97,574	0	0	0	97,574
				LNRS2 KEPPEL	75,249	0	0	0	75,249
				LNRS2 RAWMARSH WEST	107,451	0	0	0	107,451
				LNRS2 ROTHER VALE	93,857	0	0	0	93,857
				LNRS2 ROTHERHAM EAST	118,579	0	0	0	118,579
				LNRS2 SITWELL	119,870	0	0	0	119,870
				LNRS2 WICKERSLEY NORTH	108,527	0	0	0	108,527
				Sub-Service Total	**1,396,457**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1,396,457**
			Legacy Projects	A6123 GreatEasternWay pedxing	23,386	0	0	0	23,386
				Bus Service Improvements	600,170	0	0	0	600,170
				Canklow Rotherway metering	2,064	0	0	0	2,064
				Green Arbour Rd Laughton Com R	13,072	0	0	0	13,072
				Sub-Service Total	**638,692**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**638,692**
			Local Safety Schemes	Minor Works Programme 26/27	81,000	0	0	0	81,000
				Minor Works Programme 27/28	0	81,000	0	0	81,000
				Minor Works Programme 28/29	0	0	81,000	0	81,000
				Minor Works Programme 29/30	0	0	0	81,000	81,000
				Schools Crossing Patrol	102,161	0	0	0	102,161
				Small Intervention Schemes	109,005	0	0	0	109,005
				Unallocated Local Safety S	45,000	0	0	0	45,000
				Ward Road Safety Plans	80,000	80,000	0	0	160,000
				Sub-Service Total	**417,166**	**161,000**	**81,000**	**81,000**	**740,166**

			LSTF & Smarter Choices	SY Air Quality Monitoring	44,653	0	0	0	44,653
				Sub-Service Total	**44,653**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**44,653**
			Major Schemes	A6022 Swinton to Doncaster	532,332	0	0	0	532,332
				CAZ - Bellows Road	146,372	0	0	0	146,372
				Clean Air Zones Elec Chrg Pts	933,479	0	0	0	933,479
				CRSTS Broom Wickersley Corrido	748,515	0	0	0	748,515
				CRSTS Fitzwilliam Corridor	632,314	0	0	0	632,314
				Ickles Roundabout improvement	475,472	0	0	0	475,472
				O0047 Broom Road AT	408,981	0	0	0	408,981
				Safe School Run	215,001	0	0	0	215,001
				Traff Signal renewal Prog	245,180	0	0	0	245,180
				Sub-Service Total	**4,337,646**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4,337,646**
			Service Area Total		**8,585,894**	**3,991,759**	**81,000**	**81,000**	**12,739,653**
		Service Total			**47,279,771**	**36,299,780**	**4,393,294**	**81,000**	**88,053,845**
	Directorate Total				**74,427,401**	**56,380,799**	**10,833,511**	**2,581,995**	**144,223,706**
General Fund Total					**109,727,338**	**101,618,306**	**50,227,643**	**19,376,313**	**280,949,600**

Capital Programme HRA 2026/27 to 2030/31

Directorate	Current Year Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Budget	2029/30 Budget	Total Project Budget
HRA	70,954,824	61,557,001	57,256,666	127,861,798	317,630,289
Total	**70,954,824**	**61,557,001**	**57,256,666**	**127,861,798**	**317,630,289**

Funding:

Funding Stream	Current Year Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Budget	2029/30 Budget	Total Project Budget
3) Capital Receipts HRA	14,778,582	4,735,866	0	15,741,772	35,256,220
4) Grants and Contributions	6,536,313	6,187,552	0	15,245,754	27,969,619
5) Housing Major Repairs Allow	32,415,510	27,803,220	28,768,224	29,554,808	118,541,762
6) Revenue Contributions	16,187,998	7,548,548	8,000,000	8,957,795	40,694,341
8) Unsupported Borrowing-S	1,036,421	15,281,815	20,488,442	58,361,669	95,168,347
Total	**70,954,824**	**61,557,001**	**57,256,666**	**127,861,798**	**317,630,289**

Capital Programme HRA 2026/27 to 2030/31

Directorate	Service	Service Area	Sub Service	Project	Current Year Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Budget	2029/30 Budget	Total Project Budget
HRA	Neighbourhood Capital Programm	Fair Access to All	Aids and Adaptations (Public S	Adapts - LOT1 - Public Major	1,384,966	1,327,221	1,349,618	1,369,861	5,431,666
				Adapts - LOT1 - Public Minor	184,355	176,669	179,650	182,345	723,019
				Adapts - LOT2 - Public Major	1,165,005	1,116,431	1,135,271	1,152,297	4,569,004
				Adapts - LOT2 - Public Minor	139,838	134,008	136,269	138,313	548,428
				Adapts - OTHERS - Public Major	532,104	509,918	518,523	526,301	2,086,846
				Sub-Service Total	**3,406,268**	**3,264,247**	**3,319,331**	**3,369,117**	**13,358,963**
			Service Area Total		**3,406,268**	**3,264,247**	**3,319,331**	**3,369,117**	**13,358,963**
		Improving Council Housing & Ho	Asbestos	Asbestos-Testing & Removal	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	1,200,000
				Sub-Service Total	**300,000**	**300,000**	**300,000**	**300,000**	**1,200,000**
			District Heating	District Heating Conversions	310,000	310,000	2,000,000	3,500,000	6,120,000
				Sub-Service Total	**310,000**	**310,000**	**2,000,000**	**3,500,000**	**6,120,000**
			Electricals	Electricals	1,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	7,000,000
				Wharncliffe Electricals	599,077	0	0	0	599,077
				Sub-Service Total	**1,599,077**	**2,000,000**	**2,000,000**	**2,000,000**	**7,599,077**
			Environmental Programme	Environmental Bud Unall	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	7,500,000
				Sub-Service Total	**1,500,000**	**2,000,000**	**2,000,000**	**2,000,000**	**7,500,000**
			External Insulation	Thermal Improvements Bud Unall	0	6,783,938	14,178,370	17,937,332	38,899,640
				Thermal Improvments	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	1,200,000
				Warm Homes Phase 1	6,048,824	8,276,062	3,614,880	0	17,939,766
				Sub-Service Total	**6,348,824**	**15,360,000**	**18,093,250**	**18,237,332**	**58,039,406**
			Garage Site Investment	Garages Investment	100,000	200,000	200,000	150,000	650,000
				Sub-Service Total	**100,000**	**200,000**	**200,000**	**150,000**	**650,000**
			General Structures	Capital Structural Work	1,850,000	2,000,000	1,750,000	1,500,000	7,100,000
				Sub-Service Total	**1,850,000**	**2,000,000**	**1,750,000**	**1,500,000**	**7,100,000**
			HRA support Properties	123 Narrow Lane RH	373,552	0	0	0	373,552
				Sub-Service Total	**373,552**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**373,552**
			IHMS (IT System)	ICT Hardware & Software	338,411	760,035	532,968	481,400	2,112,814
				Sub-Service Total	**338,411**	**760,035**	**532,968**	**481,400**	**2,112,814**
			Improving Council Housing	Improving Council Housing	13,771	1,699,400	0	0	1,713,171
				Sub-Service Total	**13,771**	**1,699,400**	**0**	**0**	**1,713,171**
			Major Voids Capital Prog	Lot 2 - Major Voids	2,800,000	7,700,000	2,200,000	2,200,000	14,900,000
				Mears - Major Voids	4,900,000	0	4,500,000	4,500,000	13,900,000
				Sub-Service Total	**7,700,000**	**7,700,000**	**6,700,000**	**6,700,000**	**28,800,000**
			Refurbishments	Brampton Re-roof	792,272	0	0	0	792,272
				Damp & Mould Eradication Work	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,500,000
				Design & Appraisal	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	200,000
				East Herringthorpe Re-roof P3	2,235,332	460,268	0	0	2,695,600
				Fitzwilliam windows & doors	1,282,669	0	0	0	1,282,669

				Henley & Homes Re-roof	1,623,220	0	0	0	1,623,220
				Kimberworth Park Re-roof P7	1,350,000	0	0	0	1,350,000
				Mears - Internals	2,000,000	3,000,000	5,500,000	7,000,000	17,500,000
				Other Housing Capital Works	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	8,000,000
				Refurb Bud Unall	0	2,144,996	4,781,117	5,884,327	12,810,440
				Site Prelims	500,000	0	0	0	500,000
				The Lanes Veranda Replacement	1,948,360	0	0	0	1,948,360
				Ventilation Works	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	8,000,000
				West Melton Ext Ph 1	2,786,073	0	0	0	2,786,073
				Windows/Doors & Fire Doors	550,000	550,000	550,000	550,000	2,200,000
				Wooden Window & Door Replace	400,000	400,000	400,000	0	1,200,000
				Sub-Service Total	**20,017,926**	**11,605,264**	**16,281,117**	**18,484,327**	**66,388,634**
			Replacement of Central Heating	Lot 2 - Ad Hoc Boiler Repl'ts	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	6,000,000
				Lot 2 -Boilers Scheme 1	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	10,000,000
				Sub-Service Total	**4,000,000**	**4,000,000**	**4,000,000**	**4,000,000**	**16,000,000**
			Service Area Total		**44,451,561**	**47,934,699**	**53,857,335**	**57,353,059**	**203,596,654**
		Neighbourhd Regeneration & Re	HRA Non Dwellings	HRA Play Areas	15,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	255,000
				West Melton Play Area	65,000	0	0	0	65,000
				Sub-Service Total	**80,000**	**80,000**	**80,000**	**80,000**	**320,000**
			Service Area Total		**80,000**	**80,000**	**80,000**	**80,000**	**320,000**
		New Housing Provision	New Growth New Build	Addison Road Maltby	4,685,566	1,305,134	0	0	5,990,700
				Boswell Street	254,691	0	0	15,812,108	16,066,799
				Bushfield Road Site B	1,135,075	121,024	0	0	1,256,099
				Denman Road Site A	1,094,720	548,548	0	0	1,643,268
				Elm Tree Road Maltby	0	44,678	0	0	44,678
				Grayson Road Greasboro	484,022	2,693,862	0	0	3,177,884
				Larch Road Maltby	1,770,869	382,234	0	0	2,153,103
				Netherfield Court, Eastwood	796	0	0	0	796
				New Homes Unallocated	0	0	0	2,652,681	2,652,681
				Princess Street Site A	140,888	0	0	0	140,888
				Princess Street Site B	75,503	0	0	0	75,503
				Tenter Street Thornhill	3,127,656	2,000,000	0	0	5,127,656
				Valley Drive Site C	932,240	153,375	0	0	1,085,615
				Warden Street Hsg Development	324,739	0	0	0	324,739
				York Road, Eastwood	25,961	0	0	0	25,961
				Sub-Service Total	**14,052,726**	**7,248,855**	**0**	**18,464,789**	**39,766,370**
			Strategic Acquisitions	Albert Club, West Melton SME	787,253	81,084	0	0	868,337
				Clement Street, Kimberworth	306,569	29,475	0	0	336,044
				Development budgets unallocate	0	0	0	48,501,092	48,501,092
				Laughton Gate 42 units	953,367	235,000	0	0	1,188,367
				Market Acquisitions Phase 2	4,513,527	1,000,000	0	93,741	5,607,268
				Poppyfields Ravenfield SA	886,121	1,683,641	0	0	2,569,762

				Rivelin Way, Waverley 3C	21,801	0	0	0	21,801
				Sorby Park Waverley 3B	1,495,631	0	0	0	1,495,631
				Sub-Service Total	**8,964,269**	**3,029,200**	**0**	**48,594,833**	**60,588,302**
			Service Area Total		**23,016,995**	**10,278,055**	**0**	**67,059,622**	**100,354,672**
		Service Total			**70,954,824**	**61,557,001**	**57,256,666**	**127,861,798**	**317,630,289**
	Directorate Total				**70,954,824**	**61,557,001**	**57,256,666**	**127,861,798**	**317,630,289**
HRA Total					**70,954,824**	**61,557,001**	**57,256,666**	**127,861,798**	**317,630,289**

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Appendix 2

Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an equality analysis.

Directorate: Corporate Services	**Service area: Finance**
Lead person: Rob Mahon	**Contact number: 01709 254518**

1. Title:

Is this a:

☐	**Strategy / Policy**	X	**Service / Function**	☐	**Other**

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The Council has a framework of budgetary monitoring and reporting that ensures budget management is exercised within annual cash limits.

Each month the Budget Manager receives timely information on income and expenditure to enable them to fulfil their budgetary responsibilities. Following the review of the budget information, each budget manager provides a forecast of their projected outturn position on each service. The Executive Director subsequently provides a consolidated forecast for their directorate to the Chief Finance Officer and relevant Cabinet Member.

A budget monitoring report, which includes an up-to-date outturn forecast, information about significant variances from approved budgets and proposals for dealing with them, is submitted to Cabinet at least 6 times a year, culminating with the Councils Financial Outturn report.

Whilst the framework described above relates to revenue budgets, the capital programme is also similarly monitored and reported alongside the Council's revenue

position.

The financial monitoring position report summarises the key variances for each directorate and considers the key financial pressures and risks.

This report is the final financial report for the financial year detailing the final outturn position.

Given that the revenue and capital budgets have been approved by Council in February each year, when equality assessments would have been considered at that time in respect of the budget proposals, there are no further issues in respect of equality and diversity.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

Questions	**Yes**	**No**
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		x
Could the proposal affect service users?		x
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		x
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		x
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		x
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		x

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason.

Given that the revenue and capital budgets have been approved by Council in February / March each year, when equality assessments would have been considered at that time in respect of the budget proposals, there are no further issues in respect of equality and diversity.

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6.**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4.**

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity	
If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals prior to carrying out an **Equality Analysis.** Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation. Please provide specific details for all three areas below and use the prompts for guidance.	
• **How have you considered equality and diversity?** N/A	
• **Key findings** N/A	
• **Actions** N/A	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Rob Mahon	Service Director - Financial Services	12/06/2026

6. Publishing	
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	12 June 2026
Report title and date	Financial Outturn 2025/26, to

	Cabinet 6th July 2026
If relates to a Key Delegated Decision, **Executive Board**, **Council** or a **Significant Operational Decision** – **report date and date sent for publication**	Cabinet 6 July 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	12 June 2026

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields *This report constitutes an update on previously approved activity. All Capital schemes will have already been subject to their own climate impact assessments as part of their approval. It should be noted that where delays or slippage has been identified throughout the report it is likely that any original emissions savings are also delayed. Similarly, carbon forecast to be emitted through construction of delayed schemes will also be impacted.*					

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? *There are no specific impacts on resilience identified as part of this assessment. Significant new actions will be or have been subject to their own climate impact assessments.*

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures: *As this report is a financial update on previous events, updates on levels of funding moving forwards and doesn't approve anything directly to happen, it does not have any carbon implications.*

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Nikki Kelly Finance Manager (Corporate Finance) Financial Services Corporate Services Choose an item.
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	*N/A*
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	*N/A*
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 662 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title
Treasury Management Outturn 2025/26

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Judith Badger, Executive Director of Corporate Services

Report Author(s)
Tom Soulby, Principal Finance Officer (Treasury)
01709 822334 or tom.soulby@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Annual Treasury Management Report is the final treasury report for 2025/26. Its purpose is to review the treasury activity for 2025/26 against the Strategy agreed at the start of the year. The report also covers the actual Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code.

The Council received an Annual Treasury Strategy Report in advance of the 2025/26 financial year at its meeting on 5 March 2025 and Audit Committee received a mid-year report at its meeting on 25 November 2025, representing a mid-year review of treasury activity during 2025/26. In addition, quarterly updates were received by Audit Committee on 29 July 2025 and 17 March 2026.

This report meets the requirements of both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

The Council is required to comply with both Codes through regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators outturn position as set out in Section 2 and Appendix 1.

List of Appendices Included
Appendix 1 - Summary Prudential Indicators for Rotherham MBC
Appendix 2 - Initial Equality Screening Assessment
Appendix 3 - Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers
The Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26, including Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators report to Council on 5th March 2025
Treasury Management Update – Quarterly Report (Q1) to Audit Committee on 29th July 2025
Mid-Year Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators Monitoring report to Audit Committee on 25th November 2025
Treasury Management Update – Quarterly Report (Q3) to Audit Committee on 17th March 2026
CIPFA – Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services Local Government Act 2003 (as updated)
CIPFA – Prudential Code (as updated)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Treasury Management Outturn 2025/26

1. Background

1.1 The Council's treasury management activities are regulated by the Local Government Act 2003, supplemented by a number of codes of practice and statutory guidance:

- The Local Government Act 2003 (the Act) provides the powers to borrow and invest as well as providing controls and limits on this activity;
- The Act permits the Secretary of State to set limits either on an individual Council or on all local authorities or any of them restricting the amount of borrowing which may be undertaken (although no restrictions were made in 2025/26);
- Statutory Instrument (SI) 3146 2003, as amended from time to time, gives effect to the Act;
- The SI requires the Council to undertake any borrowing activity with regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities;
- The SI also requires the Council to operate the overall treasury function with regard to the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services;
- Under Section 15(1)a of the Act the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has issued Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments to structure and regulate councils' investment activities; and
- Under Section 238(2) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (revised), the Secretary of State has taken powers to issue guidance on accounting practices. Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision was issued under this section on 8th November 2007.

1.2 The Council has carried out its functions in accordance with the Act, SI 3146 2003 and all associated guidance and professional codes, which limit the levels of risk associated with its treasury management activities. In particular, the adoption and implementation of the Prudential Code and the Code of Practice for Treasury Management means that its capital expenditure is prudent, affordable and sustainable. Treasury investment practices are governed by the primary objectives of security ahead of liquidity and then yield.

1.3 The underlying economic and financial environment remains difficult for the Council to predict. Inflation has fallen back from historic highs in previous years, and the Bank of England continued to cut interest rates in 2025/26. However, market sentiment has been heavily influenced by the Middle East conflict. Commentators anticipate a growing risk of inflation, meaning interest rates will likely not be cut for some time, and may increase to counteract inflationary pressures arising from steepening energy costs. The cost of long-term borrowing from PWLB has also increased during the year, in part reflecting this sentiment. On investments, the main challenge relates to concerns over investment counterparty risk. This background encourages the Council to continue maintaining investments short term and with low-risk counterparties.

1.4 On a daily basis money flows into and out of the Council's bank accounts and this has to be managed carefully. The Council manages its cashflow on a daily basis to take account of income received from grants, fees and charges, local taxation and borrowing alongside its outgoings due to the expenditure the Council incurs, such as salaries and supplier payments. The cashflow process is about ensuring the Council has sufficient funds available in its bank accounts to meet the payments that it plans to make each day. This process is separate from the Council's financial monitoring that tracks planned and actual expenditure against planned budgets.

1.5 The Council has reduced its investment balances in recent years as funds have been used to meet loan maturities rather than refinancing at historically high interest rates. In 2025-26 the Council borrowed an additional £142m from Local Authorities and PWLB. In addition, the Council repaid £110.2m of principal on a mix of Local Authority and PWLB loans.

1.6 The Bank of England Base Rate decreased from 4.5% to 3.75% during 2025/26 as inflation continued to fall from the previous highs.

1.7 Careful management of these factors through the Council's Treasury Strategy has helped to control the Council's interest costs. Taken together the additional return on investments, reduced borrowing need and further slippage on the Council's Capital Programme have enabled a £7.6m underspend on the 2025/26 Treasury Management budget that has been used to support the Council's 2025/26 overall outturn position.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Indicators are set prior to the start of the financial year and reflect the known position at that time. Approved changes to the Capital Programme and its funding throughout the financial year, together with variations in treasury management activity, mean that actual indicators for the year may vary from the projections made prior to the start of the financial year. However, through regular monitoring and reporting revised estimates of these indicators, the Council is able to ensure the impact is known and managed through the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

2.2 The actual prudential indicators for 2025/26 for Rotherham MBC, with comparators, are shown in the attached Appendix 1. Background to these is provided in the following paragraphs.

2.3 **Impact of the Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing 2025/26** - the Council expends capital expenditure on long term assets. This may either be:

- Financed immediately through capital receipts, capital grants etc.; or
- Financed over the life of the asset by use of Prudential Borrowing

2.4 Part of the Council's Treasury activities is to address this borrowing need, either through borrowing from external bodies, or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council. The wider treasury activities also include managing the Council's cash flows, its previous borrowing activities and the investment of surplus funds. These activities are structured to manage risk foremost and then optimise performance. The primary objective is security ahead of liquidity and then yield or return.

2.5 The Council's underlying need to borrow is called the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge for the Council's debt position. It represents 2025/26 and prior years' net capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources. In accordance with current accounting regulations, the CFR also includes other long-term liabilities which have been brought onto the balance sheet, for example, PFI schemes and Right of Use assets.

2.6 The Non-HRA (Housing Revenue Account) element of the CFR (excluding PFI schemes and Right of Use assets) is reduced each year by a statutory revenue charge (the Minimum Revenue Provision or MRP). The CFR can also be reduced by:

- the application of additional capital resources (such as unapplied capital receipts); or
- charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).

2.7 At the end of the financial year 2025/26 the closing CFR is £25.7m less than that approved in the revised indicator, via the Mid-Year report. The reduction is due to slippage on a number of capital schemes and additional grant funding gained, that in turn reduces the Council's need to borrow at this point in time and has the knock on effect of generating savings against the treasury budget for 2025/26 onwards as planned interest payments and minimum revenue provision payments are reduced or pushed further into the future.

2.8 Treasury Position at 31 March 2026 - whilst the Council's gauge of its underlying need to borrow is the CFR, the Treasury Management function, as authorised by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, can manage the Council's actual borrowing position by either:

- borrowing to the CFR (excluding the impact of PFI and similar contracts); or
- choosing to utilise some temporary internal cash flow funds instead of borrowing (under-borrowing); or
- borrowing for future increases in the CFR (borrowing in advance of need).

2.9 During 2025/26 the Council continued to pursue its short-term borrowing strategy supported by advice from its Treasury advisers (MUFG). Borrowing is taken only as needed and will be refinanced in the next few years. This has resulted in an increase in the net under borrowed position.

2.10 The Council will continue to monitor the interest position with a view to taking out further long term borrowing if there are dips in the long term borrowing rates but currently is utilising short term borrowing to cover immediate borrowing need in anticipation of lower rates in the future. The Council keeps the position under constant review in order to react to opportunities or plan for a change in approach, should it be needed to guard against interest rate risk. However, at present the Council is comfortable to continue the short term borrowing approach.

2.11 At 31 March 2026, the Council's borrowing (excluding PFI and similar schemes) and investments were as follows:

2.12 **Table 1 Council's Treasury Position 2025/2026**

Net Borrowing	**As At 31 March 2025 £m**	**As At 31 March 2026 £m**
Long Term Borrowing		
Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)	420.000	399.759
Market (e.g. Banks, Other Local Authorities) > 1 year	147.000	172.000
Short Term Borrowing		
Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)	30.232	60.241
Market (e.g. Banks, Other Local Authorities) < 1 year	80.000	77.000
	677.233	**709.000**
External Investments		
Debt Management Office	0.000	0.000
Other Local Authorities	0.000	5.000
Money Market Funds	31.895	15.930
	31.895	**20.930**
Net Borrowing	**645.338**	**688.070**
Net Borrowing - Excluding Short Term Borrowing	**565.338**	**550.829**
Capital Financing Requirement (excl Other Long Term Liabilities)	**843.584**	**897.957**
Net Under-Borrowed	**278.246**	**347.128**

2.13 Against the Council's Capital Financing Requirement of £897.957m, when PFI and similar arrangements totalling £136.650m are excluded, the Council's outstanding net borrowing of £611.070m (excluding short term borrowing), is lower than this requirement by £347.128m. The Council has pursued a short term borrowing strategy, running investment balances down and borrowing funds only as required. In 2025/26 £142m of additional borrowing has been taken out

through PWLB Loans and Local Authority market loans to finance the capital programme as well as the refinancing of £110.2m of loan maturities (resulting in a £31.8m increase in total long term and short term borrowing).

2.14 Total savings in the Treasury Management budget for 2025/26, arising from all treasury activity including cash-flow management, was £7.6m and as per the Council's Budget and Council Tax report 2026/27 these have been used to support the Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy. In addition, treasury management and capital financing decisions taken at the year end will also enable a re-profiling of MRP and interest forecasts to allow for further savings in 2026/27. These decisions generate in excess of £2.7m of cost savings to be contributed towards the treasury management budget in 2026/27, although it should be noted that some of this saving is as a result of slippage in the Capital Programme and as such is temporary.

2.15 **PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

Some of the prudential indicators provide either an overview or specific limits on Treasury activity:

2.16 **Net Borrowing and the CFR** - in order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term the Council's external borrowing net of investments must only be used for a capital purpose. Net borrowing should not therefore, except in the short term, have exceeded the CFR for 2025/26 plus the expected changes to the CFR for 2026/27 and 2027/28. The Council complied with this prudential indicator throughout 2025/26.

2.17 **The Authorised Limit** – the Authorised Limit is the "Affordable Borrowing Limit" required by S3 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The Council maintained gross borrowing within its Authorised Limit, both excluding and including the impact of bringing PFI and similar arrangements on to the Council's Balance Sheet.

2.18 **The Operational Boundary** – The Operational Boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the Boundary are acceptable subject to the Authorised Limit not being breached. The Council maintained its borrowing position around its Operational Boundary.

2.19 **Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream** – This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and the cost of other long term obligations but net of investment income) against the Council's Budget Requirement (net revenue stream) for the General Fund and budgeted income for the HRA.

2.20 The General Fund shows a reduction in the actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream. The General Fund ratio decreased from 12.24% (original budget) to 10.11% (actual out-turn). This was mainly as a result of reduced borrowing costs for the year as the Council undertook lower than expected additional borrowing during the year. The increased interest received on investments also contributed to this reduction. The HRA ratio decreased from

15.06% (original budget) to 14.15% (actual out-turn). This is primarily due to the increased interest earned on investment balances which were higher than forecast.

2.21 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS**

Limits on Activity

2.22 Upper limits on fixed and variable interest rates as at 31 March 2026 - These indicators identify the maximum limits for fixed interest rate gross debt and for variable interest rates based upon the debt position, net of investments. The Council remained within the limits set throughout 2025/26.

2.23 Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing during 2025/26 - These gross limits are set to reduce the Council's exposure to large fixed rate sums falling due for refinancing and are required for upper and lower limits. The Council's strategy of borrowing on a short term basis will result in an increased refinancing risk in the near term.

2.24 Maximum funds invested for more than 365 days - This limit is set to reduce the need for early sale of an investment and is based on the availability of funds after each year end.

2.25 **Borrowing**

New and Replacement Borrowing - During the year a total of £110.2m of principal on existing loans has been repaid. This has been refinanced by £142m of new loans detailed in the table below.

2.26 **Table 2 Borrowing taken in 2025/26**

Lender	Start Date	Principal £m	Type	Term	Interest Rate %
West Midlands Combined Authority	17/04/2025	30.000	Temp	12 months	4.65
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	18/06/2025	15.000	Temp	10 months	4.15
Oxfordshire County Council	27/06/2025	5.000	Temp	11 Month	4.25
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority	01/08/2025	3.000	Temp	12 months	4.25
Test Valley Borough Council	25/09/2025	4.000	Temp	12 months	4.3
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	18/12/2025	25.000	Temp	24 months	4.2

PWLB	23/02/2026	40.000	Maturity	12 months	3.89
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	27/02/2026	10.000	Temp	12 months	4.2
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	19/03/2026	10.000	Temp	12 months	4.2
Weighted average					4.21

2.27 Debt Repayment – long term loans totalling £110.232m matured during the year as shown in the table below. Part repayments of principal (£0.232m) continued on the Annuity loans taken up in prior years.

2.28 **Table 3 Debt Repayments 2025/26**

Lender	Principal £m	Type	Interest Rate	Weighted Average rate of interest
PWLB	20.000	Fixed rate	4.93%	
PWLB	10.000	Fixed rate	4.96%	
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	20.000	Fixed rate	3.66%	
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	25.000	Fixed rate	4.96%	
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	15.000	Fixed rate	5.10%	
London Treasury Liquidity Fund	20.000	Fixed rate	5.80%	
PWLB Annuity	0.232	Annual repayments	Various	
Total:	**£110.232**			**4.89%**

2.29 **Investments**

The Council's investment policy is governed by MHCLG Guidance, which was implemented in the annual investment Strategy approved by Council on 5th March 2025. The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy.

2.30 The Council maintained an average balance of £47.0m and received an average return of 4.17%. The Council continued to use Money Market Funds for short-

term deposits, which are AAA rated securities and offer a slightly better rate of interest than the Debt Management Office. The Bank of England base rate decreased from 4.5% to 3.75% during 2025/26.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

No options considered as the report outlines actual Treasury Management activity during 2025/26.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 None required

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 None required

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 Treasury Management forms an integral part of the Council's overall financial arrangements. This report provides an update on the performance of the treasury management functions for 2025/26 against the prudential indicators as outline in the Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26. There were no breaches of prudential indicators to report and savings were generated from the Treasury Management Strategy adopted that played a vital role in enabling the Council to operate a balanced budget.

6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Compliance with legislation and guidance included in section 1 of this report ensures that the Council operates compliantly and within the requirements for local authority treasury management.

7.2 The Council has complied with the Prudential Indicators as detailed in Section 2.

7.3 The amount of borrowing detailed in Section 2 together with managing that borrowing in a manner compliant with the Prudential Indicators demonstrates that the amount of borrowing and the means of managing that borrowing are within the parameters set by the Act and the Prudential Code.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 No direct implications.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 No direct implications

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 This is a finance update report, providing a review of the Council's Treasury Management outturn position for 2025/26. Any equalities and human rights impacts from service delivery have been or are detailed as capital projects are developed for inclusion within the Council's capital programme.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 No direct implications.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 None identified.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Regular monitoring of treasury management activity throughout the financial year ensures that risks and uncertainties are addressed at an early stage and hence kept to a minimum.

14. Accountable Officers

Natalia Govorukhina, Head of Corporate Finance

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	17/06/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	10/06/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	10/06/26

Report Author: Tom Soulby, Principal Finance Officer (Treasury)
01709 822334 or tom.soulby@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website

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APPENDIX 1

Summary Prudential Indicators: Rotherham MBC

		Actual £m	Revised Estimate £m	Original Estimate £m
1	**Capital Expenditure (excluding PFI & Finance lease liabilities)**	**150.613**	**214.194**	**241.993**
2	**Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) including PFI & similar liabilities:**			
	General Fund	698.922	724.783	729.084
	HRA	335.691	335.498	332.535
	Total	**1034.613**	**1060.282**	**1061.619**
3	**Net Borrowing compared to CFR excluding PFI & similar liabilities:**			
	Total Borrowing	709.000	764.118	947.325
	Total Investments	20.930	20.000	20.000
	Net Borrowing	688.070	744.118	927.325
	CFR (excluding PFI & Similar liabilities)	897.957	955.444	956.781
	Under-borrowing	**209.887**	**211.326**	**29.456**
4	**Net Borrowing compared to CFR including PFI & similar liabilities:**			
	Borrowing (from above)	709.000	764.118	947.325
	Borrowing (PFI etc.)	136.650	104.838	104.838
	Total Borrowing	845.651	868.956	1052.163
	Total Investments	20.930	20.000	20.000
	Net Borrowing	824.721	848.956	1032.163
	CFR	1034.613	1060.282	1061.619
	Under-borrowing	**209.893**	**211.326**	**29.456**
5	**Authorised Limit for external debt**			
	Assumed Borrowing	945.806	945.806	976.781
	PFI & similar liabilities	136.935	136.935	136.935
	Authorised Limit	1082.741	1082.741	1113.716
	Total Borrowing	845.651	868.956	1052.163
	Borrowing Below Limit	**237.090**	**213.785**	**61.553**
6	**Operational boundary for external debt**			
	Assumed Borrowing	976.063	976.062	1007.325
	PFI & similar liabilities	134.475	134.475	134.838
	Operational Boundary	1110.538	1110.537	1112.163
	Total Borrowing	845.651	868.956	1052.163
	Borrowing Below/(Above) Boundary	**264.886**	**241.581**	**60.000**
7	**Maximum Funds invested > 365 days**	**0.000**	**10.000**	**10.000**

		Actual	Revised Estimate	Original Estimate
		%	%	%
8	**Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream – Non HRA**	10.11	11.52	12.24
9	**Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream – HRA**	14.15	14.65	15.06

10	**Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing**	**Actual** **%**	**Revised Upper Limit** **%**	**Original Upper Limit** **%**
	Under 12 months	19.36	60	60
	12 months to 2 years	9.20	35	35
	2 years to 5 years	0.82	45	45
	5 years to 10 years	0.93	45	45
	10 years to 20 years	4.76	45	45
	20 years to 30 years	7.95	50	50
	30 years to 40 years	10.58	50	50
	40 years to 50 years	36.53	55	55
	50 years and above	9.87	60	60

11	**Upper Limit on fixed interest rates based on fixed net debt**	**Actual** **%**	**Revised Upper Limit** **%**	**Original Upper Limit** **%**
		91	100	100

12	**Upper Limit on variable rates based on fixed net debt**	**Actual** **%**	**Revised Upper Limit** **%**	**Original Upper Limit** **%**
		9	50	50

Appendix 2

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Annual Treasury Management Report and Actual Prudential Indicators 2025/26	
Directorate: Corporate Services	**Service area:** Finance
Lead person: Natalia Govorukhina	**Contact:** **01709 910147**
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service / Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Council has a framework of Treasury Management reporting. There are three key reports a year that set out: The TM Strategy The TM Mid year performance The TM outturn and performance against prudential indicators Whilst the framework described above relates to revenue budgets, the capital programme is also similarly monitored and reported alongside the Council's revenue position.

The position reports summarise the key variances for the TM function and considers the key financial pressures and risks.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		x
Could the proposal affect service users?		x
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		x
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		x
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		x
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		x

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

The report is backwards looking and reports on performance against previously agreed budgets and indicators. There is no direct impact on individual service users or other stakeholders.

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6.**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4.**

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.**

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation. Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).
• **How have you considered equality and diversity?** n/a
• **Key findings** n/a
• **Actions** n/a

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Judith Badger	Executive Director – Corporate Services	28/05/2026

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	27/05/26
Report title and date	Annual Treasury Management Report and Actual Prudential Indicators 2025/26
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	29/05/2026

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Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields: *None*					

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? No

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures: This report is a financial update on performance of the Treasury Management function during 2025/26. There are no carbon impacts.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Tom Soulby Principal Finance officer Financial Services Corporate Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 649 Katie Rockett Climate Change Officer

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 6th July 2026

Report Title
May 2026/27 Financial Monitoring Report

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Judith Badger, Executive Director of Corporate Services

Report Author(s)
Rob Mahon, Service Director – Financial Services
01709 254518 or rob.mahon@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report sets out the financial position as at the end of May 2026 and forecast for the remainder of the financial year, based on actual costs and income for the first two months of 2026/27.

Financial performance is central to the Council's overall performance framework and the delivery of its policy objectives. As such, this is the first in a series of regular financial monitoring reports for the current financial year to be presented to Cabinet.

As of May 2026, the Council's forecast outturn for 2026/27 is an overspend of £4.6m, made up of a Directorates overspend of £7.6m, offset by a projected Central Services underspend of £3.0m. The main pressures driving this forecast are within Social Care, largely due to market prices and the increasing number of people receiving support and care who have complex needs. Detailed explanations of the reasons for variances within each Directorate are provided in the main body of this report.

Following approval of the 2026/27 Budget, the global economic position has remained volatile. Economic market sentiment has been heavily influenced by the Middle East conflict leading to steepening energy costs impacting the wider economy and economic commentators anticipating a growing risk of inflation. These financial challenges are being regularly reviewed as part of the Council's ongoing Medium Term Financial Planning.

The report also provides an updated position on the Council's Capital Programme including a number of programme variations.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the current General Fund Revenue Budget forecast overspend of £4.6m.

2. Note the updated position of the Capital Programme.

3. Approve the capital budget variations as detailed in section 2.17 of the report.

List of Appendices Included
Appendix 1 Equalities Impact Assessment
Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers
Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 Report to Council on 4th March 2026

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

May 2026/27 Financial Monitoring Report

1. Background

1.1 As part of its performance and control framework the Council is required to produce regular and timely reports for the Strategic Leadership Team and Cabinet to keep them informed of financial performance so that, where necessary, actions can be agreed and implemented to bring expenditure in line with the approved budget for the financial year.

1.2 Delivery of the Council's Revenue Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Programme within the parameters agreed by Council is essential if the Council's objectives are to be achieved. Financial performance is a key element within the assessment of the Council's overall performance framework.

1.3 This report is the first in a series of financial monitoring reports to Cabinet for 2026/27, setting out the projected year end revenue budget financial position in light of actual costs and income for the first two months of the financial year.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Table 1 below shows, by directorate, the summary forecast revenue outturn position.

Table 1: Forecast Revenue Outturn 2026/27 as at May 2026

Directorate	**Budget 2026/27**	**Forecast Outturn 2026/27**	**Forecast Variance over/under (-)**
	£m	**£m**	**£m**
Children and Young People Services (CYPS)	84.9	90.0	5.1
Adult Care, Housing & Public Health (ACH&PH)	157.1	159.3	2.2
Regeneration and Environment Services (R&E)	56.2	56.5	0.3
Corporate Services (CORP)	43.0	43.0	0.0
Policy Strategy & Engagement (PSE)	6.0	6.0	0.0
Central Services (CS)	47.1	44.1	-3.0
Directorate Forecast Outturn	**394.3**	**398.9**	**4.6**
Dedicated Schools Grant			5.5
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)			0.0

2.2 As at May 2026, there is a forecast overspend of £4.6m. This position is made up of a Directorates overspend of £7.6m, offset by a projected Central Services underspend of £3.0m. The Council's overspend position at this point is largely due to placement pressures within Children and Young People Services (£5.1m), and the high demand and complexity of care packages in Adult Social Care (£2.2m). As has been the case in previous years, the Council will need to put in place actions to mitigate the projected

overspend position and mitigate the need for the Council to call on reserves at the financial year end. It is anticipated that the Council will be able to manage this situation and reduce the projected overspend during the course of the financial year, given successful management in previous years; however, the Council cannot forecast that improvement until clear actions have been identified. Work to identify actions will need to be carried out over the summer and implemented at pace for maximum effect. This work will primarily focus on the pressures identified within social care placements and care packages.

2.3 The budget as approved at Council on 4th March 2026 included provisions and allocations for inflation, pay award and anticipated cost pressures. These budgets are held centrally at the start of the year and allocated to services as costs are confirmed and incurred.

2.4 The table below sets out the headline reasons for the movement between opening budgets and the latest budget that has been forecast against in this report.

2.5 **Table 2: Budget Movements during 2026/27**

	Opening Budget 2026/27	Pay Budget Changes / Fees & Charges Income Inflation	Contract Inflation & Central Provision Allocations to Services	Service Transfers between Directorates	Latest Budget 2026/27
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
CYPS	**78.4**	-1.6	8.2	-0.1	84.9
ACH&PH	**149.1**	-1.4	9.5	-0.1	157.1
R&E	**56.7**	-1.3	1.1	-0.3	56.2
CORP	**41.3**	-1.2	0.5	2.4	43.0
PSE	**6.3**	-0.4	-0.1	0.2	6.0
CS	**62.5**	5.9	-19.2	-2.1	47.1
TOTAL	**394.3**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**394.3**

2.6 The Council's Financial Outturn report 2025/26 reported that £0.440m of prior year savings remained undelivered. In addition, the Budget and Council Tax report 2026/27 included the delivery of £3.193m of new savings, giving £3.633m to be delivered during 2026/27. Currently, £2.413m of delivery has been secured. The table below shows the total amount of all savings to be delivered during 2026/27 and the amount that has been delivered to date.

Table 3: Delivery of Agreed Savings

Directorate	2026/27 Saving to be delivered £'000	Secured as at 31st May 2026 £'000	Still to be delivered £'000
Corporate Services	704	704	0
Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	1,089	189	900
Children's and Young People Services	800	800	0
Regeneration and Environment	1,040	720	320
Total	**3,633**	**2,413**	**1,220**

2.7 Activity is ongoing to deliver the remaining £1.220m of savings that relate to Extra Care Housing £0.900m, Waste Route Optimisation £0.280m and Waleswood £0.040m.

2.8 The following sections provide further information regarding the Council's current forecast overspend of £4.6m, the key reasons for forecast under or overspends within directorates and the progress of savings delivery.

2.9 Children and Young People Services Directorate (£5.1m forecast overspend)

2.9.1 Children and Young People Services has a forecast budget pressure of £5.1m at the end of May 2026. This forecast is mainly driven by pressures in Children's Social Care placements.

2.9.2 The latest forecast overspend is reflective of the latest projections for Looked After Children (LAC) placements across the financial year, factoring in a growth in the number of placements and challenges in the placement mix with a greater reliance on external residential care. The placement plan reflects expected actions and measures to manage children in care numbers and costs for the year across the different placement provision types such as residential care, fostering and supported accommodation. Work is underway between finance and the service to ensure the plan can be delivered and identify opportunities to further reduce the financial impact. In addition, further work is needed to identify options and actions that can be carried out to reduce this projected overspend.

2.9.3 The actual children in care number at the end of May 2026 is 486, which represents an increase of 11 when compared to the number at the beginning of the financial year. The increase in placements since 1st April mainly relates to low cost foster care placements with families and friends. Other placement types continue to track positively against budget profile at this early stage, except for external residential care where there is an increase of 3 placements against profile plan.

2.9.4 External residential placements continue to be the primary driver of placement budget pressures. As of May 2026, 44 children were placed in external children's homes,

compared with a budgeted profile of 41. This pressure is further compounded by the high proportion of children requiring high-cost residential provision due to the complexity of their needs. Occupancy levels within available council-owned children's homes stood at 82% at the end of May 2026, with three beds unoccupied. This is, however, projected to increase to 87% by the end of the following month. Work is ongoing to place and support more children and young people within council-owned provision. It is also important to note that there are a further 4 new internal residential placements to become available during the course of 2026/27. The financial impact of making these beds available in 2026/27 has already been factored into the forecast.

2.9.5 The forecast position will continue to be closely monitored throughout the year. Opportunities to mitigate these pressures, such as through staff vacancies and the utilisation of grant funding slippage, will be explored where there is sufficient scope and flexibility to do so.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budgets (£5.5m forecast deficit)

2.9.6 A net surplus balance of £1.3m is forecast for all 19 maintained schools in Rotherham for 2026/27 based on submitted budget plans. Within this there are 3 schools with forecast budget deficits totalling £30k. A budget recovery plan would be agreed with these schools to bring the budget back into a surplus position.

2.9.7 The Council is currently forecasting an in-year deficit of approximately £5.5m across its centrally managed DSG budgets, mainly relating to high needs. This deficit reflects an ongoing structural gap between available funding and demand-led expenditure. This position is driven by sustained cost and demand pressures across the Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) system. The latest forecast for the DSG reserve indicates a cumulative deficit of £8.4m by the end of March 2027, which will be carried forward into the following financial year (2027/28) in line with the statutory override regulations. Based on latest modelling, the cumulative DSG deficit is projected to rise to £19.9m by March 2028, when the statutory override is due to end. At this point, the Council would be required to address the cumulative deficit from its General Fund resources, creating a substantial financial pressure.

2.9.8 Financial support previously received under the Safety Valve Agreement ended in 2025/26, the final year of the programme. In its place, the Government has introduced a High Needs Stability Grant, which will meet 90% of DSG deficits accumulated by local authorities up to 31 March 2026. This funding forms part of the transition towards a reformed SEND system, which requires a system-wide shift towards earlier intervention and greater inclusion within mainstream education settings. Payment of the High Needs Stability Grant is contingent upon the submission by 19th June and subsequent approval by the Department for Education (DfE) of Rotherham's Local SEND Reforms Plan.

2.9.10 The projected position against DSG budgets and the removal of the statutory override from April 2028 will mean that the Council's DSG deficit will be £19.9m, which will rise year on year by around £10m a year based on current demand and inflationary projections. However, whilst it is not confirmed, it is expected the DfE will continue to support Councils, potentially continuing the 90% High Needs Stability grant funding for deficits post 2025/26. This would potentially reduce the impact on the £19.9m deficit at the point of the statutory override by £18m, leaving the Council with £2m to fund itself, then reducing the ongoing annual impact by £9m a year with the Council picking up the

remaining £1m. This is a projected position that will need to be closely monitored as the SEND reforms and associated funding is further implemented and confirmed. This will be a key consideration in the Council's Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy planning moving forwards.

2.10 Adult Care, Housing and Public Health (£2.2m overspend)

2.10.1 The directorate is forecast to overspend by £2.2m. High demand and complexity of care packages make up all the projected overspend. The cost of care packages is forecast to overspend by £2.0m within Adult Care. There is also an overspend of £0.2m for staffing costs as agency spend is higher than budget to cover gaps in service for in-house care provision. Work is underway to identify options to address the increased use of agency and difficulties experienced in recruitment.

2.10.2 The areas of biggest overspend are Older People and Learning Disabilities. The cost of older people homecare is offset partly by an underspend in Older People Residential Care, reflecting the priority of keeping people at home longer. The overspend in Learning Disabilities is largely made up of complex Out of Borough placements that cater for individuals with the most complex needs.

2.10.3 Public Health is expected to come in on budget at this stage.

2.10.4 Housing is expected to come in on budget at this stage.

2.11 Regeneration and Environment Directorate (£0.3m forecast overspend)

2.11.1 The Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £0.3m. There are a number of overspends within the forecast which are being offset to some extent by assorted underspends some of which are detailed below.

2.11.2 The Markets service is forecasting a £0.6m overspend because of income shortfalls which is a similar position to previous years. This position will be monitored carefully as the development works continue, and traders move out of the indoor covered market into the new Market Hall.

2.11.3 The Waste service is forecasting a £0.6m overspend. There are a number of pressure points across the Waste Service. Work continues to achieve the route optimisation saving approved as part of the Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26, however, difficulties in collection experienced during Autumn 2025/26 has meant that the planned removal of 2 routes has not yet been possible, though is still intended. There has been a requirement for additional resources to keep on top of rounds. The key pressure in the current forecast is the number of spare vehicles required at the moment (17) to complete routes, which should improve once new refuse collection vehicles arrive.

2.11.4 Within the Home to School Transport forecast there is a level of risk as the effect of the new cohort of students who will require home to school transport for the 2026/27 academic year is not yet known.

2.11.5 These overspends are offset by a £0.2m underspend in Regulatory Services as a result of vacancies, which is a similar position to last year. Business Growth is forecasting a £0.2m underspend as business centres continue to perform well. A review of grants in

Economic Strategy has realised a £0.2m underspend as staff can be funded through this.

2.12 Corporate Services (balanced forecast)

2.12.1 The directorate is currently forecasting an overall balanced outturn. Whilst there are pressures across individual services, it is expected that robust budget management across the whole directorate will be able to address these pressures in year.

2.12.2 Property and Facilities Services (PFS) is forecast to be overspent by £0.3m. There is an underspend of £0.7m within Cleaning as income is greater than budgeted and initial estimates for the 2026/27 Capital Programme mean the Building Consultancy service is expected to exceed its income budget by £0.3m. This is largely offset by Facilities Management £1.1m overspend due to assorted building costs, largely repairs and maintenance, being forecast above budget. There is also a £0.1m overspend in Asset Management due to income under-recovery.

2.12.3 Within Customer, Information and Digital Services, cost pressures currently exist as a result of temporary over-recruitment within the Customer Services contact centre. This is a proactive decision to address the challenges caused by high staff turnover and service demand in this area, both of which impact call waiting times. These pressures are partially mitigated by savings achieved through telephony contracts, alongside vacancies in other areas of the service.

2.12.4 Legal Services face ongoing demand for legal support with an increase in child protection hearings and court case costs relating to Looked After Children. Ongoing difficulties in recruiting to key posts are currently resulting in the extended use of locum solicitors and external suppliers. However, the number of cases remains volatile and will continue to be monitored closely, along with an internal development programme for trainee solicitors.

2.13 Policy Strategy & Engagement (balanced forecast)

2.13.1 The service is currently forecasting a balanced outturn. Overspends due to the cost of the interim Director of PSE are offset by salary recharges to grant schemes along with part year vacancies.

2.14 Central Services (£3.0m underspend)

2.14.1 Central Services has a £3.0m forecast underspend, reflecting savings from Treasury Management activity.

2.14.2 The Council's Treasury Management Strategy is to minimise the level of borrowing and to borrow short term to ultimately minimise interest costs. This, along with slippage on the Capital Programme in 2025/26, means that the level of financing costs for 2026/27 will be less than anticipated. This is because the Council builds in the financial impact of all capital investment decisions into the revenue budget, at the point those decisions are made. This is an approach that will see the Council generate savings to support Council wide pressures.

2.14.3 There continue to be financial challenges as a result of increased market costs, however it is envisaged that the Council is well positioned to address these pressures in year due to actions taken as part of the budget setting process for 2026/27. Ongoing uncertainty in the global and UK economy remains an ongoing budget risk.

2.14.4 The Central Services budgets are made up of a number of corporate budgets for levies and charges such as the Integrated Transport Levy (ITA), Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Financing, and Treasury Management. A list of the main budget areas within Central Services was provided as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27, approved at Council on 4th March 2026. The costs within this area are largely fixed costs, set out prior to the start of a financial year, not specific to a particular Directorate and are therefore not controllable by the directorates and thus held centrally.

2.15 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (balanced forecast)

2.15.1 The Housing Revenue Account is a statutory ring-fenced account that the Council has to maintain in respect of the income and expenditure incurred in relation to its council dwellings and associated assets. The HRA is currently forecast to come in on budget.

2.16 Capital Programme Update

2.16.1 The Capital Programme 2026/27 has been updated following the 2025/26 outturn and the latest information on project position and delivery plans. The Capital Programme 2026/27 has been reset at £180.682m split between the General Fund £109.727m and HRA £70.955m. This position will act as the original budget position for 2026/27; future reports will explain how this budget moves during the year due to project and programme variations, but this value will remain as the original budget.

2.16.2 The 2026/27 Programme has decreased overall by £30.224m from the position reported to Cabinet in February 2026. The movement is based on the latest profiles of expenditure against schemes, following the 2025/26 outturn position, factoring in slippage from 2025/26 and new grant funding. The main movements are explained in the Financial Outturn 2025/26 report on the same Cabinet agenda.

2.16.3 Table 4: Updated Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30

Directorate	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
General Fund Capital					
Children and Young People Services	12.132	9.962	14.389	7.020	43.503
Regeneration and Environment	74.427	56.381	10.834	2.582	144.224
Adult Care & Housing	7.449	7.760	6.927	1.760	23.896
Policy, Strategy and Engagement	0.630	0.210	0.210	0.210	1.260

Corporate Services	15.089	27.305	17.868	7.805	68.067
Total General Fund Capital	**109.727**	**101.618**	**50.228**	**19.377**	**280.950**
Total HRA Capital	70.955	61.557	57.256	127.862	317.630
Total RMBC Capital Programme	**180.682**	**163.175**	**107.484**	**147.239**	**598.580**

2.16.4 Table 5: Funding of the approved Capital Programme

Funding Stream	**2026/27 Budget**	**2027/28 Budget**	**2028/29 Budget**	**2029/30 Budget**	**Total Budget**
	£m	**£m**	**£m**	**£m**	**£m**
Grants and Contributions	56.032	44.460	13.967	3.400	117.859
Unsupported Borrowing	53.555	57.015	36.115	15.977	162.662
Revenue Contribution	0.140	0.143	0.146	0.000	0.429
Total Funding - General Fund	**109.727**	**101.618**	**50.228**	**19.377**	**280.950**
Grants and Contributions	6.536	6.188	0.000	15.246	27.970
Unsupported Borrowing	1.036	15.282	20.488	58.362	95.168
Housing Major Repairs Allowance	32.416	27.803	28.768	29.555	118.542
Capital Receipts	14.779	4.736	0.000	15.741	35.256
Revenue Contribution	16.188	7.548	8.000	8.958	40.694
Total Funding - HRA	**70.955**	**61.557**	**57.256**	**127.862**	**317.630**
Total	**180.682**	**163.175**	**107.484**	**147.239**	**598.580**

2.17 Capital Programme Variations

2.17.1 The following variations to the Capital Programme cover significant virements between capital projects that are either a key decision value or a change in use of corporate resources and as such need reporting to Cabinet.

2.17.2 Local Regeneration Fund (LRF)

The Council submitted its latest progress update on the LRF Programme to Government in May 2025. As part of this update, it was identified that a number of variations on projects are required to reflect schemes that it is no longer possible to deliver. In addition, some schemes require additional funding from the LRF to ensure they can be delivered and to ensure that the Council maximises use of this fund and is not required to repay any of the grant back to Government. A summary of these variances is outlined below.

Local Regeneration Funded projects with savings or that are unable to be delivered:

2.17.3

Project name	**Amount**	**Narrative**
3-7 Corporation Street	£52,059	Acquisition of the site, demolition and clearance was completed in March 2025. With the redevelopment of the site being taken forward through the Strategic Sites project, the underspend on the demolition/clearance phase will be reallocated.
Eldon Road	£16,712	Project completed in October 2024 having underspent.
Town Centre Music Venue	£1,989,182	Following discussions with the potential operator the decision was taken not to proceed with the Town Centre Music Venue project at the former Alma Tavern. After retaining part of the budget allocation (£0.3m) to facilitate maintenance and repair to the building prior to its disposal, the remaining budget will be reallocated.
30-36 Corporation Street	£1,177,825	This funding was allocated for the acquisition of privately owned property. As the property has yet to be brought to the market the recent programme review has recommended that the remaining funds be reallocated to ensure the LRF grant can be maximised.
Riverside Residential Quarter Enabling	£620,113	Project completed in July 2025 with an underspend. Following the completion of additional works outside the scope of the original scheme, the remaining funds will be reallocated.
LRF to be reallocated	**£3,855,891**	

2.17.4 Proposed use of the LRF to support existing schemes requiring additional funding to progress or complete:

Project name	Amount	Narrative
Strategic Sites	£2,420,439	In order to move the Strategic Sites programme through to Stage 2, further funding is required. The specific detail of this variation is set out in a separate Cabinet report on this agenda.
Dinnington	£1,262,811	See narrative below for information about why this budget increase is proposed.
Proposed LRF allocated	**£3,683,250**	

2.17.5 Dinnington

As set out above it is proposed to increase the Dinnington project budget by £1.263m in order to ensure that the scheme can be delivered to its original scope, following factoring in a number of challenges around inflation, construction, and market prices.

The Dinnington project was last approved at Cabinet in July 2024, with a Budget of £12.049m. At this point in time the project was based on estimated construction costs to redevelop a number of buildings on the site that the Council needed to acquire first. As such, previous Cabinet reports were clear that the projected costs were estimates only, given the uncertainty around the condition of the buildings and at the point all buildings were acquired a clearer cost position could be projected. As the key acquisitions have taken place on the project, further refinements have been made to the construction costs and wider project costs. Along with this, there has been a change to the management of the construction side of the scheme and a scope change that will see one of the buildings demolished and rebuilt rather than refurbished as originally planned.

These construction cost requirements have been reviewed and collated, with a revised budget requirement of £13.312m. Whilst there have been a variety of refinements to cost and scope, the main key changes that have led to the additional required funding of £1.263m are detailed below.

- A scope change to the building on Laughton Road which houses units 46 - 56. Following acquisition of the property an assessment was made on the level of work required to bring it up to an appropriate standard. However, following this assessment it was clear thatn a more appropriate and long-term cost-effective approach would be to change the plan for this building from a refurbishment to demolition and rebuild. This has increased the project budget by £735k.
- Works to address and build into the project thinking appropriate plans for basements identified on sites once acquired, £145k.
- Design development and specification enhancements across several elements including foundation design, fire protection, associated finishes and increased Mechanical and Electrical (M&E) works, £206k. These costs have largely been identified once the buildings have been acquired.

- Inflation impact on projected construction costs, revised following the time taken to acquire key buildings, review and finalise the project scope. £177k.

As detailed above, the additional funding ask can be met from the LRF programme. The project budget retains a 10% contingency budget of £805k. As such, if no further scope changes are made and there are no further challenges on site once the main capital works commence, it is possible that this revised budget will not be fully utilised.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 With regard to the current forecast net revenue budget overspend of £4.6m that the Council is forecasting, further management actions continue to be identified with the clear aim of ensuring a balanced budget position can be achieved.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The Council consulted on the proposed budget for 2026/27, as part of producing the Budget and Council Tax Report 2026/27. Details of the consultation are set out in the Budget and Council Tax 2026/27 report approved by Council on 4th March 2026.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Executive Directors, Managers and Budget Holders will ensure ongoing tight management and close scrutiny of spend this financial year.

5.2 Financial Monitoring reports are taken to Cabinet meetings during the year. The Financial Outturn report for 2026/27 will be taken to Cabinet in July 2027.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The Council's overspend position is detailed within the report along with the estimated impact of current financial pressures from inflation and increases in demand. This position continues to be monitored closely. Control over spending remains critical to both maintaining the robust Reserves Strategy and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

6.3 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. Project specific implications have been addressed in the Key Issues section.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Whilst there are no direct human resources implications arising from this monitoring report, there are ongoing workforce related pressures reflected in the financial position. These include recruitment and retention challenges in key services and use of agency and locum staffing. These factors will continue to be monitored as part of workforce planning.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The report includes reference to the cost pressures on both Children's and Adults' Social care budgets.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 This is a finance update report, providing a review of current progress to date on the Council's revenue and capital budgets, any equalities and human rights impacts from service delivery have been or will be detailed as service budgets and capital projects are pulled together for inclusion within the Council's revenue budget or capital programme. The Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

11 Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from the report. The Carbon Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 At a time of economic difficulty and tight financial constraints, managing spend in line with the Council's budget is paramount. Careful scrutiny of expenditure and income across all services and close budget monitoring therefore remain a top priority if the Council is to deliver both its annual and medium-term financial plans while sustaining its overall financial resilience.

13. Accountable Officers

Rob Mahon, Service Director – Financial Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	19/06/2026
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	16/06/2026
Service Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	18/06/26

Report Author: Rob Mahon, Service Director – Financial Services
This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1

Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an equality analysis.

Directorate: Corporate Service	**Service area: Finance**
Lead person: Rob Mahon	**Contact number: 01709 254518**

1. Title:
Is this a: [ ] **Strategy / Policy** [X] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Council has a framework of budgetary monitoring and reporting that ensures budget management is exercised within annual cash limits. Each month the Budget Manager receives timely information on income and expenditure to enable them to fulfil their budgetary responsibilities. Following the review of the budget information, each budget manager provides a forecast of their projected outturn position on each service. The Executive Director subsequently provides a consolidated forecast for their directorate to the Chief Finance Officer and relevant Cabinet Member. A budget monitoring report, which includes an up-to-date outturn forecast, information about significant variances from approved budgets and proposals for dealing with them, is submitted to Cabinet at least 6 times a year, culminating with the Councils Financial Outturn report.

Whilst the framework described above relates to revenue budgets, the capital programme is also similarly monitored and reported alongside the Council's revenue position.

The financial monitoring position report summarises the key variances for each directorate and considers the key financial pressures and risks.

This report is the first financial report in the financial year; it sets out the Councils latest revenue forecast position. The report also covers off any other key items to be noted at this time.

Given that the revenue and capital budgets have been approved by Council in February each year, when equality assessments would have been considered at that time in respect of the budget proposals, there are no further issues in respect of equality and diversity.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		x
Could the proposal affect service users?		x
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		x
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		x
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		x
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		x

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason.

Given that the revenue and capital budgets have been approved by Council in February each year, when equality assessments would have been considered at that time in respect of the budget proposals, there are no further issues in respect of equality and diversity.

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6.**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4.**

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity	
If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals prior to carrying out an **Equality Analysis.** Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation. Please provide specific details for all three areas below and use the prompts for guidance.	
• **How have you considered equality and diversity?** N/A	
• **Key findings** N/A	
• **Actions** N/A	
Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	n/a
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	n/a

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Rob Mahon	Service Director - Financial Services	15/06/2026

6. Publishing
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and

Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	15/06/2026
Report title and date	May 2026/27 Financial Monitoring Report, to Cabinet 6th July 2026
If relates to a Key Delegated Decision, **Executive Board**, **Council** or a **Significant Operational Decision** – **report date and date sent for publication**	Cabinet 6 July 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	15/06/2026

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields *This report constitutes an update on previously approved activity.*					

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?
There are no specific impacts on resilience identified as part of this assessment. Significant new actions will be or have been subject to their own climate impact assessments.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:
As this report is a financial update on previous events, updates on levels of funding moving forwards and doesn't approve anything directly to happen, it does not have any carbon implications.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Nikki Kelly Finance Manager (Corporate Finance) Financial Services Finance and Customer Services
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	*N/A*
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	*N/A*
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 663 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report with Exempt Appendices
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title
Council Homes Housing Delivery Programme – July 2026 Update

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)
Alex Young, Housing Growth Manager
alex.young@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

In line with previous Cabinet approvals, most recently in January 2026, this report provides the usual six-monthly Housing Delivery Programme update to Cabinet. The report covers the period between the 1st of December 2025 and 31st May 2026, during which time 66 homes were delivered. The report also seeks approval for changes to the overall programme position, including specific additions to the programme. These changes are designed to maintain delivery of the 1,000 new Council homes target, while providing the flexibility to mitigate risks to this delivery.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the continued progress made in delivering the Council's Housing Delivery Programme, including the delivery of 66 new homes in the period covered by this report, and the ongoing work to deliver 1,000 new Council homes by Summer 2027.

2. Approves the programme changes outlined in this report to facilitate the delivery of 1,000 new Council homes by Summer 2027, within the financial resources allocated to the programme from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

3. Approves the appropriation of 2a The Parade (see Appendix 6) into the HRA, and work to refurbish the property to the standards required for letting as general needs accommodation.

4. Agrees to delegate authority to the Service Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to remove the service charge at Hurley Croft once work to convert to residential accommodation is ready to start.

5. Approves the proposed changes to the Housing Acquisitions Policy referenced at Paragraph 2.12. The draft policy is attached at Appendix 7.

6. Approves the removal of the Grayson Road Council Build site from the delivery pipeline.

7. Agrees to continue to receive an update on the Housing Development Programme every six months.

List of Appendices Included
Appendix 1 Exempt Housing Delivery Programme
Appendix 2 Exempt Pipeline Opportunities
Appendix 3 Homes for Private Market Sale
Appendix 4 Housing Delivery Map
Appendix 5 Tenant Feedback and Photographic Summary of Delivery
Appendix 6 2a The Parade, Rawmarsh
Appendix 7 Housing Acquisitions Policy
Appendix 8 Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A)
Appendix 9 Equality Analysis (Part B)
Appendix 10 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers
Housing Strategy 2025-2030
Council Homes Housing Delivery Programme Report January 2026

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
None

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
Yes or No? If yes, use text below.

An exemption for Appendices 1 and 2 under Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 is requested, as this report contains commercially sensitive information.

It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption would outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information because when purchasing homes,

either as Section 106 acquisitions, Market Acquisitions or via the Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative, the Council may be in competition with others. Exempt Appendices 1 and 2 include information which may be subject to a commercial negotiation. Publishing this information would therefore put the Council at a competitive disadvantage. It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption would outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.

Council Homes Housing Delivery Programme – July 2026 Update

1. Background

1.1 The Council commenced its Housing Delivery Programme (HDP) in 2018 with an ambition to deliver 1,000 new Council Homes by the Summer of 2027. Since then, the Council has established a strong record of delivery, using its land and resources to build and acquire additional Council homes.

1.2 By the end of May 2026, 808 new Council homes had been delivered, including 114 homes in the 2025/26 financial year. The 808 new homes comprise 670 Council Rent homes (83%) and 138 Shared Ownership homes (17%). A further 125 Market Sale homes were delivered between August 2020 and April 2023 (see Appendix 3). As these were not Council homes, they do not contribute towards the 1,000 new Council homes target.

1.3 A map showing the location of the new Council homes delivered to the end of May 2026 is attached at Appendix 4.

1.4 Delivery continues across the four workstreams outlined in previous Cabinet reports:

- **Council build**: New build homes on Council-owned sites.
- **SME**: Homes delivered by Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) developers through the Council's innovative Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative.
- **Section 106**: Acquisitions from developers to meet their affordable housing planning obligations.
- **Market Acquisitions**: Acquisitions from the open market.

1.5 The programme remains on course to deliver 1,000 new Council homes by Summer 2027. Due to the complex nature of the programme, there remain risks to this delivery. These risks are set out in section 13 of this report, alongside the mitigations in place to manage them.

1.6 Between 1 December 2025 and 31 May 2026 (the 'reporting period' covered by this report), the programme delivered a total of 66 new homes. This comprises 21 Council build homes, 26 Section 106 acquisitions and 19 market acquisitions. Appendix 5 provides a photographic overview of this delivery, together with a selection of tenant feedback.

1.7 Over the same period, work progressed to bring forward upcoming projects from the Council's new-build pipeline. A planning application was submitted for the conversion of Hurley Croft Neighbourhood Centre to residential accommodation, and planning consent was granted for 38 homes across sites in Wath, and at Tenter Street in Thornhill. Construction commenced on 28 homes across three sites in Wath, with construction ready to start in June on 31 homes across 2 sites at Eastwood. The construction of 43 homes across 2 sites at Maltby continued with good progress made in line with the project programme.

1.8 A further SME project with the potential to deliver 8 homes at Maltby has been added to the programme, with more information detailed in exempt Appendix 2. The developer will provide a full proposal for evaluation against programme requirements and a strategic needs assessment.

1.9 In accordance with the Council's Social Value Policy, a contractual obligation to deliver social value is included in all contracts associated with the programme. In the reporting period, the Council build project at Ship Inn and the Pre-Construction Services Agreement contract for the Council build project at Eastwood both delivered over 100% of the contracted social value commitments. This included hiring local employees, the use of apprenticeships, spending in the local supply chain, local school and college visits and the donation of resources to Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises.

1.10 Within the reporting period, the Council has rolled out a New Homes Survey to gather tenant feedback and assess satisfaction levels on the properties it has delivered under the HDP (see Paragraph 4.3). Preliminary analysis of the returned surveys shows 83% of responses are neutral or positive. A more detailed summary will be provided in the future iterations of this report.

1.11 The case for continuing the delivery programme is underlined by strong demand for Council homes with more than 4,800 households registered for Council Housing and actively bidding for available properties. The Council's capacity to respond to this demand is further reduced by Right to Buy, with 1,376 Council homes sold between the start of January 2018 and the end of May 2026. Following changes in Government policy (discounts reduced to pre-2012 levels), Right to Buy applications increased sharply in November 2024, with higher levels of stock loss seen in 2025/26 as a result. Applications in 2025/26 are lower than before the changes in policy, resulting in lower levels of stock loss forecast in 2026/27.

1.12 The Housing Strategy was approved in September 2025 and outlines the Council's commitment to keep residents healthy and warm, play its part in reducing carbon emissions and reduce inequalities within and between communities. The Strategy commits the Council to continue to build high quality, sustainable and affordable homes to meet the wide range of housing needs of residents. This reinforces the commitment to deliver 1,000 new council homes by the summer of 2027, diversify the range of housing delivered to help meet specialist need and provide homes to prevent and relieve homelessness.

1.13 Investment in existing Council homes remains a significant priority for the Council. This is reflected in the 2026/27 HRA Business Plan which, alongside the investment in new homes, includes an additional £350m of investment in existing Council homes over the 30-year life of the plan, bringing the total investment to £1.3bn.

2. Key Issues

Programme changes

2.1 On 19 January 2026, Cabinet approved programme changes outlined in the previous HDP update, to facilitate the delivery of 1,000 new homes by Summer 2027, and within the financial resources allocated to the Programme from the HRA. The approved programme position is summarised below in Table 1.

Table 1: Approved Programme Position – January 2026

Workstream	Completed	In Build	In Contract	Pipeline	Total
Council Build	421	62	79	7	569
SME	7	15	0	6	28
Section 106	220	55	0	15	290
Market Acquisition	94	0	12	17	123
Total	**742**	**132**	**91**	**45**	**1010**

2.2 The inclusion of 10 additional homes beyond the 1,000 new Council Homes target provided a degree of mitigation against slippage in delivery, or homes not coming forward as expected. However, this did not provide sufficient programme level mitigation against risks to the delivery of 1,000 new Council homes. Accordingly, further mitigations were outlined in the previous report, including:

- Additional market acquisitions budget allocation.
- Consideration of any new SME opportunities made available to the Council with delivery ahead of summer 2027.
- Consideration of any Section 106 opportunities made available to the Council with delivery ahead of summer 2027.

2.3 These mitigations have been utilised to bring forward further changes to the overall programme position, providing additional flexibility to support the delivery of 1,000 new Council homes by summer 2027. The proposed programme position is summarised in Table 2 with further detail provided in exempt Appendix 1.

Table 2: Proposed Programme Position – Recommendation 2

Workstream	Completed	In Build	In Contract	Pipeline	Total
Council Build	442	71	51	4	568
SME	7	15	0	14	36
Section 106	246	36	0	27	309
Market Acquisition	113	0	7	28	148
Total	**808**	**122**	**58**	**73**	**1061**

2.4 The position includes the removal of one Council-build home at Hurley Croft, which will provide an increase of 4 new homes rather than the 5 assumed in the previously approved programme. The proposed programme also includes the addition of a further 52 homes (set out in further detail in 2.6 below), providing a net increase of 51 homes.

2.5 In July 2025, Cabinet approved the removal of specific projects to limit programme costs, enable the effective and efficient prioritisation of resources and ensure the delivery of a balanced programme. The additional homes now proposed for inclusion in the programme support this approach through the provision of financially viable projects that are affordable within the 2026/27 HRA Business Plan, while mitigating risks to the 1000 new Council Homes target and supporting delivery of the estimated 500 additional homes through to 2037-38.

2.6 The specific additions to the programme are outlined in Table 3 with further detail provided in exempt Appendices 1 and 2.

Table 3: Proposed Programme Additions – Recommendation 2

Workstream	Project	Homes	Comments
Market Acquisition	Market Acquisition	25	Additional Market Acquisitions
Section 106	Brampton Vale Phase 2	7*	Further phase of S106 delivery on this development
Section 106	Poppyfields Phase 2 (Moor Lane South)	12**	Further phase of S106 delivery on this development
SME	Opportunity at Maltby	8	New opportunity
Total		**52**	

*This project will deliver a further 26 homes after the current programme which will contribute to the estimated 500 additional homes to be added to the Council stock through to 2037/38.

**This project will deliver a further 18 homes after the current programme which will contribute to the estimated 500 additional homes to be added to the Council stock through to 2037/38.

2.7 The proposed programme position now includes 61 homes above the 1,000 new Council homes target. This surplus provides the flexibility to support delivery of the 1,000 homes on time, while simultaneously providing an initial pipeline to begin delivery of the estimated 500 additional new homes to be added to the Council stock through to 2037/38. There will be some movement between the current and future elements of the programme which will be determined by progress at an individual project level. Updates will be provided in future iterations of this report as the position clarifies closer to delivery of the 1,000th new Council home.

Programme milestones

2.8 The delivery profile to deliver the remainder of the 1,000 new Council homes includes the following forecast activity and milestones:

- Over 100 Council Build homes under construction in Quarter 1 of the 2026/27 financial year.

- A total of 1,000 new homes to be 'locked in' (in contract, under construction or already delivered) by 31 December 2026.
- A total of 150 new Council homes delivered in the 2026/27 financial year.
- A total of 1,000 new homes delivered by the summer of 2027.

Programme activity subject to specific report recommendations

2.9 The Council owns a residential property, 2a The Parade, Rawmarsh (Appendix 6), which previously formed part of a commercial lease alongside the retail unit below. The lease has now expired, and the residential property is surplus to commercial requirements. This provides the opportunity to add a 2-bedroom flat to the Council housing stock as part of the HDP. There are a further 7 flats above commercial units at this location, all of which are already Council Homes managed via the HRA. Significant demand exists for 2-bedroom flats in Rawmarsh, with an average of 111 bids for this property type in 2025.

2.10 The property has been surveyed and is suitable for refurbishment, within the financial parameters of the Market Acquisition workstream, and letting, as part of the Council stock. It is therefore recommended that the property should be appropriated to the Housing Service and brought into use as General Needs accommodation (Recommendation 3).

2.11 Work to develop the conversion of the Hurley Croft Neighbourhood Centre continues, with planning consent pending. Once granted, the next steps are to finalise designs and procure a contractor. When a deliverable project is in place and supported by a fully approved Final Business Case (FBC), the existing service charge paid by tenants will need to be removed. It is therefore recommended that Cabinet delegates authority to the Service Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to remove the service charge, subject to approved planning consent and approved project designs and costs via the Council's capital approval process (Recommendation 4). Should a deliverable project not be possible, removal of the service charge will not be required. Updates will be provided in future iterations of this report as the project work develops.

2.12 The Housing Acquisitions Policy was approved by Cabinet on 16 October 2023. In line with the Policy a review has taken place as a result of which, some changes are proposed (Recommendation 5). These changes aim to remove some procedural detail, improve overall clarity and align the Policy with Strategy documents that have been updated since the original Policy was approved. In summary, the main proposed changes are:

- Greater clarity of the workstreams that make up the Housing Delivery programme.
- Updated to refer to the Rotherham Housing Strategy 2025-30 priorities rather than the 2022-25 priorities.
- Updated to refer to the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-31 rather than the 2023-26 strategy.

- Changes to Section 3 to more clearly set out the assessment of acquisition opportunities and remove some procedural content.

The changes ensure the Policy sets out the Council's approach to acquiring homes from the market to meet local housing need. The revised Policy is attached at Appendix 7 including all proposed changes.

Delivering a balanced programme

2.13 The 2026/27 HRA Business Plan approved at Council on 14 January 2026 includes circa £91m of investment earmarked to support the current HDP. The proposed programme remains on track to be delivered within this budget envelope, with a potential saving to be determined by which homes fall into the current and future elements of the programme.

2.14 To deliver a balanced programme, non-HRA funding is required alongside the Council's own HRA resources. In the 2025/26 financial year, over £12m in external grant funding was secured to support the programme (£9.5m Homes England Grant, £2.6m Brownfield Housing Fund, £97k Recycled Capital Grant Fund and £22k Commuted Sums), with a further circa £5.5m secured to date in 2026/27 (£4.7m Homes England Grant, £388k Recycled Capital Grant Fund and £387k Commuted Sums). This is an improvement on the assumptions in the HRA Business Plan 2026/27 and represents a 100% success rate on all funding bids submitted. Notably, the Council were one of the first three organisations in the country to secure grant funding from the new Social and Affordable Homes Programme 2026 (SAHP).

2.15 In January 2026, Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Service Director of Housing, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Service Director of Legal Services, to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency (trading as 'Homes England') in relation to the SAHP. Accordingly, this contract was entered into on 15th May 2026 following the Council's first bid.

Delivery beyond the current programme - to 2037/38

2.16 The current programme total of 1,061 homes will support delivery of the 1,000 new Council homes by summer 2027 and, subject to delivery risks, provide the first homes of the estimated 500 additional homes to be delivered through to 2037/38 (see Paragraph 2.7). 2 Section 106 projects which will deliver homes as part of the proposed programme position, will also contribute a combined total of 44 homes to the post summer 2027 delivery (see Table 3, Paragraph 2.6).

2.17 An additional Section 106 project, which was included in the approved programme position from January 2026, will contribute a further 16 homes to post summer 2027 delivery. This project has an outstanding planning condition which is yet to be discharged, and the Council will only enter into contract for any homes on the development (as part of the current or future elements of the programme) subject to the successful discharge of this condition. This risk is being mitigated at a programme level (Table 4, Paragraph 13.1).

2.18 The programme changes outlined in the January 2026 HDP report included moving the Grayson Road Council Build project from the current programme to post Summer 2027 delivery. Subsequent work on this project has determined that it is not financially viable for the Council to deliver homes on this site, and it is therefore recommended that it is removed from the future programme (Recommendation 6) and the site be reviewed as part of the proposed Housing Growth Framework (Paragraph 2.23).

2.19 In January 2026, Cabinet agreed the intention to undertake initial feasibility work and technical due diligence on the development potential of Council sites for the future delivery of new social and affordable homes. £240k was secured from the Government's Council Housebuilding Support Fund (CHSF) to support this work, with an additional HRA contribution of £80k.

2.20 This CHSF-funded work is now well advanced. All technical due-diligence activity across 14 sites has been commissioned, with contracts and licences in place. The survey programme is progressing through its main phases and provides the Council with a comprehensive technical baseline for each site, supporting assessments of capacity, viability and next-stage feasibility. Decisions on a range of delivery options across these sites will be subject to future Cabinet decisions.

2.21 Concurrently, the Council has been working with Council Housebuilding Support Service (CHoSS), a government-funded, Local Government Association-run programme which offers Local Authorities free, tailored support with housebuilding. This support is focused on diversifying the Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative, a review of Boswell Street at Herringthorpe (a Council owned site with previous Cabinet approval for inclusion in the programme and an indicative site capacity of 51 homes) to include recommendations on how best to progress the site, and support for HRA site appraisals and value for money assessments on General Fund land.

2.22 Collectively, the CHSF and CHoSS activity will provide a strong evidence base and clear foundations for the next stage of the HDP, and will support the Council's borough wide, cross tenure ambitions for new homes. Progress will be reported in future iterations of this report.

2.23 Alongside this work, the Council is developing a Housing Growth framework to set out how it works collaboratively (internally and externally) to pro-actively support a strategic delivery approach across the Rotherham borough. The framework will aim to ensure housing growth meets the needs of residents across all tenures and is key to the Council achieving the overall Government target of 1,111 new homes a year.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Option 1: Maintain the existing programme set out in Table 1, Paragraph 2.1.

3.2 As set out in previous reports, some movement in delivery is a normal function of a programme of this scale and complexity. Housing delivery is reliant on a

range of factors and the changes proposed in this report are in response to evolving circumstances over time. Without a flexible approach to the programme, the delivery of 1,000 new Council homes will be put at significant risk. This option is not recommended.

3.3 Option 2: Take forward the proposed programme changes outlined in Table 2, Paragraph 2.3 and Table 3, Paragraph 2.6 and approve the additional changes subject to specific recommendations.

3.4 The success of the HDP is dependent on adopting an agile approach to programme management. The changes outlined in this report support the delivery of 1,000 new Council homes within desired timescales: managing the risks to delivery and providing appropriate mitigations. The additional homes added to the programme provide this flexibility, while also supporting the continuing provision of new Council homes, in line with the ambition to deliver an estimated 500 further homes through to 2037/38.

3.5 As the deliverability of the programme clarifies over time, it will be necessary to adopt an agile approach to determining which projects are required to contribute to the current and future elements of the programme. Option 2 supports this approach and is therefore recommended.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Ward Members are engaged directly regarding any changes to the HDP which affects projects in their respective wards. For Council Build projects, this includes engagement during early project development and ahead of formal Planning Applications. For SME projects, local residents are also engaged prior to entering into contract and prior to formal planning applications.

4.2 During the reporting period, the Council's Housing Service has built on existing communication methods with the introduction of quarterly updates to Ward Members while projects are in the procurement stage and monthly updates during the construction phase. Bi-monthly updates to local residents are provided during the construction phase.

4.3 A New Homes Survey was launched during the reporting period and residents of properties delivered via the HDP were invited to respond. As more properties are completed under the HDP, residents will be surveyed approximately 3 months after tenancy start dates. The Service will use all stakeholder feedback to shape the future programme and help ensure continuous improvement in the delivery of new Council homes. Preliminary analysis of returned surveys is positive (Paragraph 1.10).

4.4 Ongoing engagement is undertaken with developers, Registered Providers of Social Housing, and external funders through a range of communication channels, including the Council's Strategic Housing Forum. Stakeholder engagement meetings linked to the Housing Growth Framework have been taking place with Registered Providers of Social Housing since April with the outcomes feeding into development of the framework.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The Service Director of Housing will have responsibility for implementing the programme. The Service Director of Legal Services will have responsibility for the negotiation, approval, and completion of all applicable legal documentation necessary to deliver the programme, including contracts.

5.2 In line with previous programme reports, this report presents a rolling, continuous programme of delivery. Further reports will be presented to Cabinet on a six-monthly cycle through to Summer 2027 to keep Cabinet appraised of progress, refresh existing approvals and to seek new approvals as required.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 Capital and revenue budgets are in place to support the Housing Delivery programme detailed within this report. This has been assessed for affordability by the inclusion of the programme in the HRA 30-year Business Plan (BP) model.

6.2 The HRA BP model assumes a level of external grant income will be received from Homes England (and other sources) to support the delivery of the programme. This is alongside an assumed level of right to buy receipts. There will be a financial impact on the HRA if funding is not secured at anticipated levels. Recent grant approvals have exceeded BP assumptions, mitigating increased costs. External grant funding will be sought on a project-by-project basis and will be subject to the usual governance processes prior to applications being made.

6.3 The appropriation of 2a The Parade will result in a change to the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) to reflect the appropriation. The property is valued at £75k so the General Fund CFR will decrease by this amount and the HRA CFR will increase by the same amount. This will result in the HRA paying additional annual interest of £2.7k which is charged at 3.604% of the increase of £75k to the CFR.

6.4 Where there is a need to engage third party contractors to support the delivery of the activity detailed in this report, these must be procured in compliance with the relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 / Procurement Act 2023, whichever is applicable dependent on the route to market), and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The proposals in this report fall within the Council's statutory powers relating to housing provision and land appropriation (namely powers set out in the Housing Act 1985, Local Government Act 1972 and Localism Act 2011). If the recommendations are approved the Programme will then be implemented in accordance with the Council's Constitution in relation to the delegations, relevant procurement rules, planning legislation, and the conditions of any external grant funding.

7.2 Specific legal advice will be required on individual transactions, including land appropriation, planning, contractual arrangements and funding agreements, and Legal Services will continue to support the Programme to ensure compliance with all relevant legislative and regulatory requirements.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no HR implications associated with this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Housing Development Programme is delivering 2, 3 and 4-bedroom homes which provide families with access to high quality, affordable homes, thus contributing to improving children's health, wellbeing and opportunity.

9.2 The programme has further delivered bungalows and more specialised accessible properties that allow older and disabled people to live in safe, suitable accommodation that meets their needs and supports people to live independently for longer.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Both an Initial Equality Screening Assessment and an Equality Analysis have been completed and are attached as Appendices 8 and 9.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Climate change poses a significant threat to environments, individuals, communities and economies on local, national, and international scales. Recognising this, the Council has targets for its own carbon emissions and emissions throughout the Borough of Rotherham to be net zero by 2030 and 2040, respectively. Council homes are outside the scope of the 2030 target for the Council's own emissions, but the Council's target to improve the energy performance of its housing stock to at least EPC band C by 2030 will support carbon savings at the Borough level: all existing properties acquired as Market Acquisitions will be improved to EPC band C, in the course of any refurbishment works required for them to meet the Council's lettable standard.

11.2 Changes to Part L of the building regulations which came into force in June 2022 have ensured a minimum level of energy efficiency which mitigates the carbon impact of the Council's new housing delivery and Section 106 acquisitions from private developers: a 31% cut in CO2 emissions from domestic energy use, compared to 2013 standards. From 24 March 2028 (after an initial, 12-month transition period) all new homes will need to comply with the Future Homes Standard, such that all new dwellings built after this date will become 'zero carbon', once the UK electricity system has been decarbonised.

11.3 A climate impact assessment has been completed and is available at Appendix 10.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The Council has an existing partnership with Equans and Mears through the housing repairs and maintenance contracts and the existing contract terms allow for some housing development. To date, contract partners have worked on the refurbishment of homes acquired through the Market Acquisitions workstream.

12.2 Registered Providers continue to play an important role in delivering affordable housing in Rotherham. The Council has a successful track record of working with housing associations to bring land forward for development and maintains strong relationships with many of the largest and most reputable organisations through the Rotherham Strategic Housing Forum. Through the development and subsequent implementation of the Housing Growth Framework, the Council will seek to further strengthen these links to work collaboratively to facilitate wider housing growth across the borough.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The key programme level risks and mitigations associated with the ongoing HDP are summarised in Table 4 below. Risks to the delivery of 1000 new homes are low because of the surplus homes built into the programme and the initial pipeline of homes planned to form part of the post summer 2027 delivery. Risks to delivering 1000 new Council homes by summer 2027 are higher but managed as far as possible through the mitigations included in the table.

Table 4: Programme Level Risks

Risk	Mitigation
• Failure to deliver 1,000 new Council homes.	• Programme includes additional 61 homes. • A further 60, Section 106 homes scheduled for delivery in the post 1000 new Council homes period. This provides mitigation of failure to deliver 1,000 new Council homes but not to the summer 2027 timescale.
• Late delivery of 1,000th new Council home.	• Flexibility within the additional 61 homes to contribute to the 1000 new Council homes, or the estimated 500 additional new homes to be added to the Council stock through to 2037/38 as required.
• Construction cost inflation	• Cost certainty on projects in contract. • Monitoring project affordability at a programme level, additional homes built in as mitigation to loss of homes from the programme.
• Delays to utilities connections or other statutory undertakings.	• Implemented lessons learned from completed projects.

	• Surplus homes built in to provide flexibility against delayed delivery on individual projects.
• Failure to secure external grant funding.	• Detailed dialogue with Homes England and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) around pipeline of projects. • Robust bidding process in place demonstrated by 100% success rate on all funding bids in 25/26.

13.2 Table 5 summarises project level risks to individual projects and the mitigations in place to manage these.

Table 5: Project Level Risks and Mitigations

Risk	Mitigation
• Failure to secure planning permission on Council Build projects – applies to 1 project (4 homes).	• No concerns raised on scheme development or density at pre-application stage.
• Council Build projects not yet in construction – applies to 2 projects (24 homes).	• Contract awarded for the design stage. Standard two stage design and build process used.
• SME projects not yet in contract – applies to 2 projects (14 homes).	• Working through detailed proposals, pre-planning applications submitted.
• S106 project not yet in contract with outstanding planning condition – applies to 1e project (15 homes).	• Developer working with Planning to resolve. • The Council will not enter contract until resolved. Mitigation for potential loss of these homes provided at a programme level.

14. Accountable Officers

Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Sarah Clyde, Service Director of Housing

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	Click here to enter a date.
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	11/06/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	03/06/26

Report Author: *Alex Young. Housing Growth Manager*
alex.young@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

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Homes for private market sale were delivered as part of the Housing Delivery Programme. Because these were not Council homes, they do not contribute to the 1000 new Council homes target. All market sale homes have now been completed.

Table 1: Market Sale homes

Scheme	Location	Ward	Cabinet Report	Completed	Units
Clusters: Northgate	Maltby	Hellaby & Maltby West	Sep-16	Aug-20	83
Town Centre Sites: Wellgate Place	Town Centre	Boston Castle	Oct-17	May-22	8
Town Centre Sites: Westgate Riverside	Town Centre	Boston Castle	Oct-17	Feb-23	20
Town Centre Sites: Millfold Rise	Town Centre	Boston Castle	Oct-17	Apr-23	14
Total					**125**

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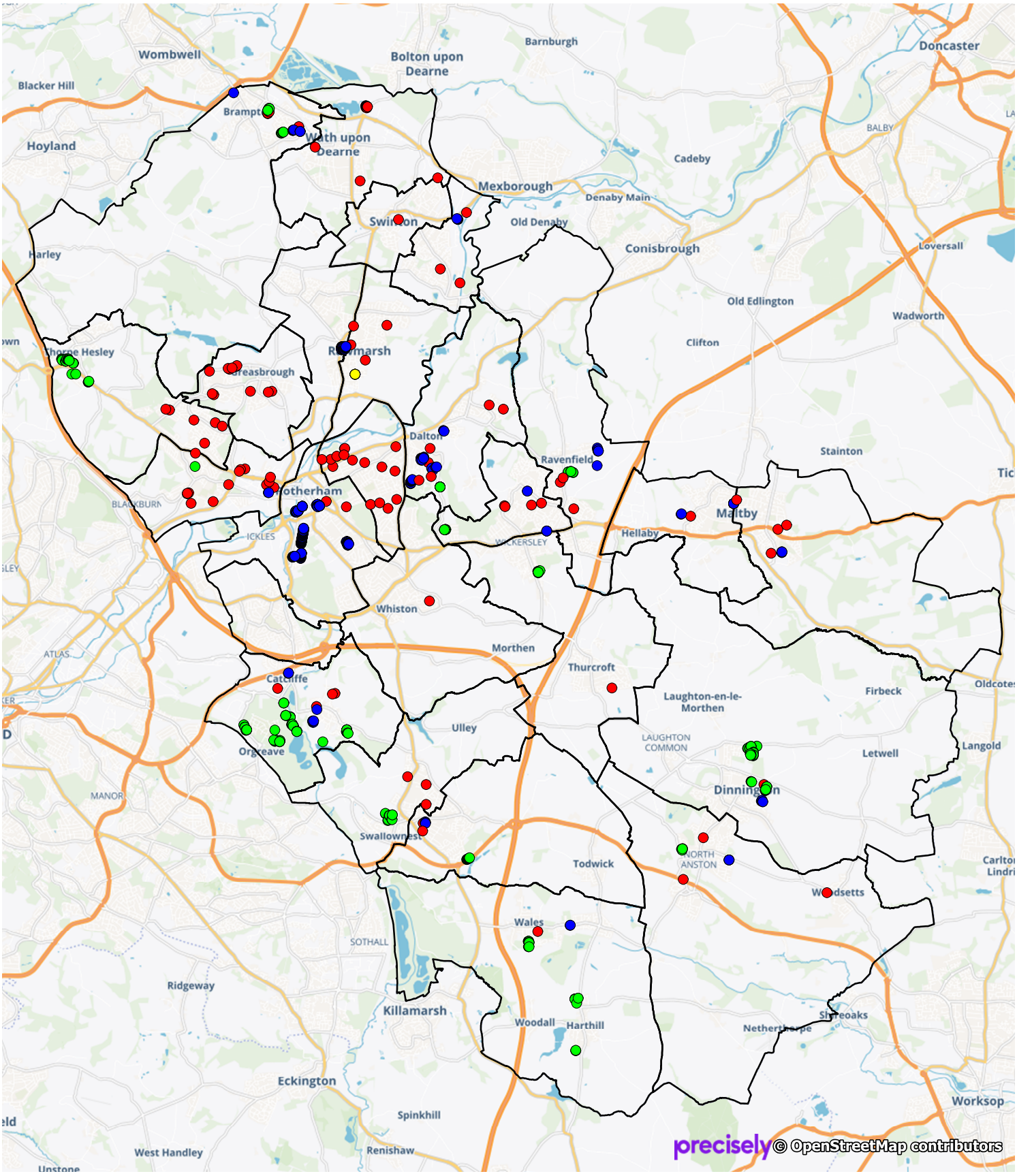
1000 Homes Target - 808 Homes Delivered



Key - Delivery Type

- Council Build (442)
- S106 Acquisition (246)
- SME Scheme (7)
- Market Acquisition (113)

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Appendix 5 - Photographic Summary of Delivery and Tenant Feedback (1st December 2025 – 31st May 2026)

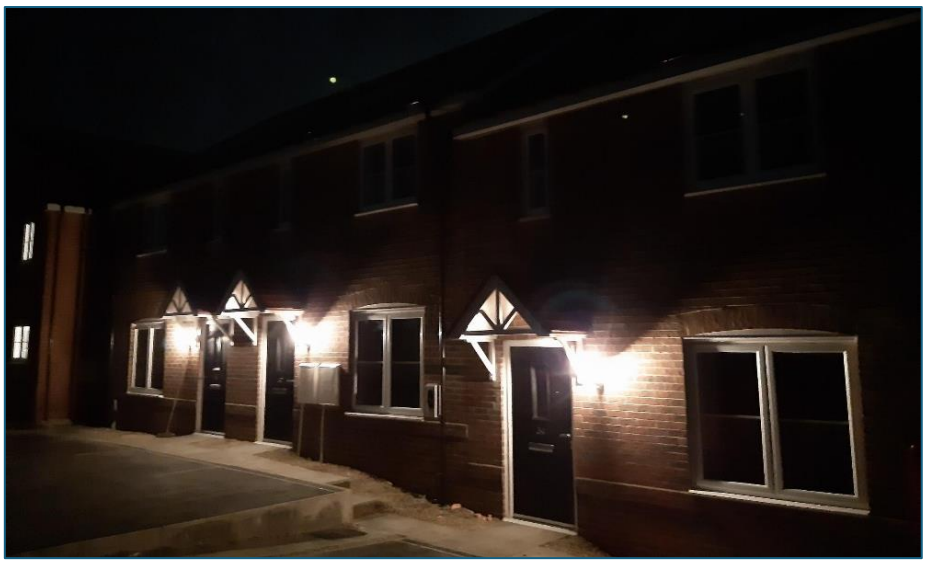
Background:

This appendix is a photographic summary of new homes delivered by the Council in the reporting period. This appendix will cover new homes delivered between 1st December 2025 and 31st May 2026. For homes delivered prior to December 2025, please see previous Cabinet Reports, available at https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=1103. Where multiple homes have delivered in the same months, the appendix will include a select number of homes for brevity. Where no appropriate photographs are available, examples may be taken from Google Earth.

December 2025: 13 homes Total

1 home, Woodsetts (Market Acquisition)

3 homes, West Melton (New Build Market Acquisitions)



4 homes, Waverley (S106 Acquisitions)

4x New Homes at Waverley, this includes the milestone 750th new home.

Appendix 5 - Photographic Summary of Delivery and Tenant Feedback (1st December 2025 – 31st May 2026)

Officers on site taking handover of the milestone 750th home on Carder Way, Waverley.

4 homes, Swinton (Council Build)

New home at Swinton.

Councillor Chris Read (Leader of the Cabinet) and Guy Fullwood (R H Fullwood & Co Ltd) cut the ribbon at new homes in Swinton.

Appendix 5 - Photographic Summary of Delivery and Tenant Feedback (1st December 2025 – 31st May 2026)

Tenants mentioned that the homes were bigger than expected, and that they enjoyed the gardens, and that the homes were in a quiet area. Another tenant mentioned that the homes were close to the local Swinton train station, and that the bedroom was a good size.

1 home, Treeton (Market Acquisitions)

January 2026: 9 homes total.

4 homes, Dinnington (S106 Acquisitions)

Officers on site taking handover of new homes in Dinnington.

1 home, Munsbrough (Market Acquisition)

2 homes, Dinnington (S106 Acquisitions)

Appendix 5 - Photographic Summary of Delivery and Tenant Feedback (1st December 2025 – 31st May 2026)

1 home, Masbrough (Market Acquisition)

1 home, Munsbrough (Market Acquisition)

February 2026: 3 homes total

1 home, Dalton (Market Acquisition)

2 homes, Maltby (Council Build)

March 2026: 21 homes total.

1 home, Ravenfield (Market Acquisition)

1 home, Bramley (Market Acquisitions)

1 home, Rockingham (Market Acquisition)

Appendix 5 - Photographic Summary of Delivery and Tenant Feedback (1st December 2025 – 31st May 2026)

2 homes, Dinnington (S106 Acquisitions)

3 homes, Waverley (S106 Acquisitions)

13 homes, Canklow (Council Build)

Appendix 5 - Photographic Summary of Delivery and Tenant Feedback (1st December 2025 – 31st May 2026)

April 2026: 12 homes Total

1 home, Meadowbank (Market Acquisition)

2 homes, Dinnington (S106 Acquisitions)

1 home, East Herringthorpe (Market Acquisition)

1 home, Wath (Market Acquisition)

1 home, Thurcroft (Market Acquisition)

6 homes, Waverley (S106 Acquisitions)

This includes the milestone 800th new home.

Appendix 5 - Photographic Summary of Delivery and Tenant Feedback (1st December 2025 – 31st May 2026)

May 2026: 8 homes total.

1 home, East Herringthorpe (Market Acquisition)

2 homes, Canklow (Council Build)

1 home, Aston (Market Acquisition)

Appendix 5 - Photographic Summary of Delivery and Tenant Feedback (1st December 2025 – 31st May 2026)

3 homes, Dinnington (S106 Acquisitions)

1 home, Treeton (Market Acquisition)

Total homes delivered in the reporting period: 66.

Tenant Feedback:

Tenant feedback gathered throughout the reporting period. Note that quotes could be edited for brevity or clarity.

“It’s the best house and location”

“It’s bigger than expected”.

“I have been on the Housing Register for nearly 3 years, continuously bidding and never thought my time would come. I saw this property and submitted a bid straight away as it looked like my dream home. I drove by to view the property from the outside prior to hearing from Key Choices so it feels like a ‘meant to be’ moment. I received a phone call from Key Choices and felt overwhelmed with joy and relief.

The process of getting the keys was fast paced and the information left in the property was informative and helpful.

I still feel overwhelmed and so happy. This is our forever home in a great location.”

“Never thought the Council built such nice homes, it’s a pleasure to be here”.

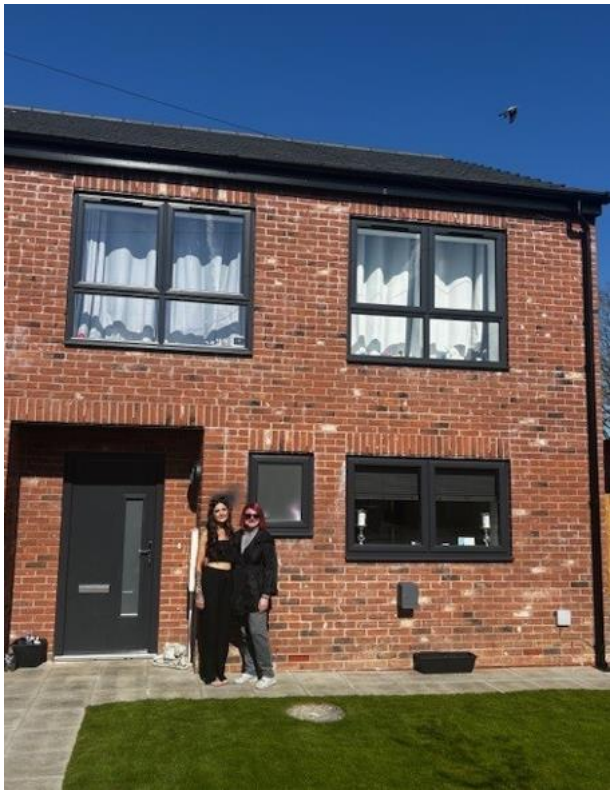
“Never seen anything like that”.

“It’s absolutely lovely”.

“Like how it’s set out, open plan and patio windows. Surprised at how beautiful it is”.

“I’m still so happy with the property. It’s a no gas property and I have noticed my bills have gone down from my other property. I still wake up every day and can’t believe I live here.”

Appendix 5 - Photographic Summary of Delivery and Tenant Feedback (1st December 2025 – 31st May 2026)



Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Linda Beresford, with a tenant.

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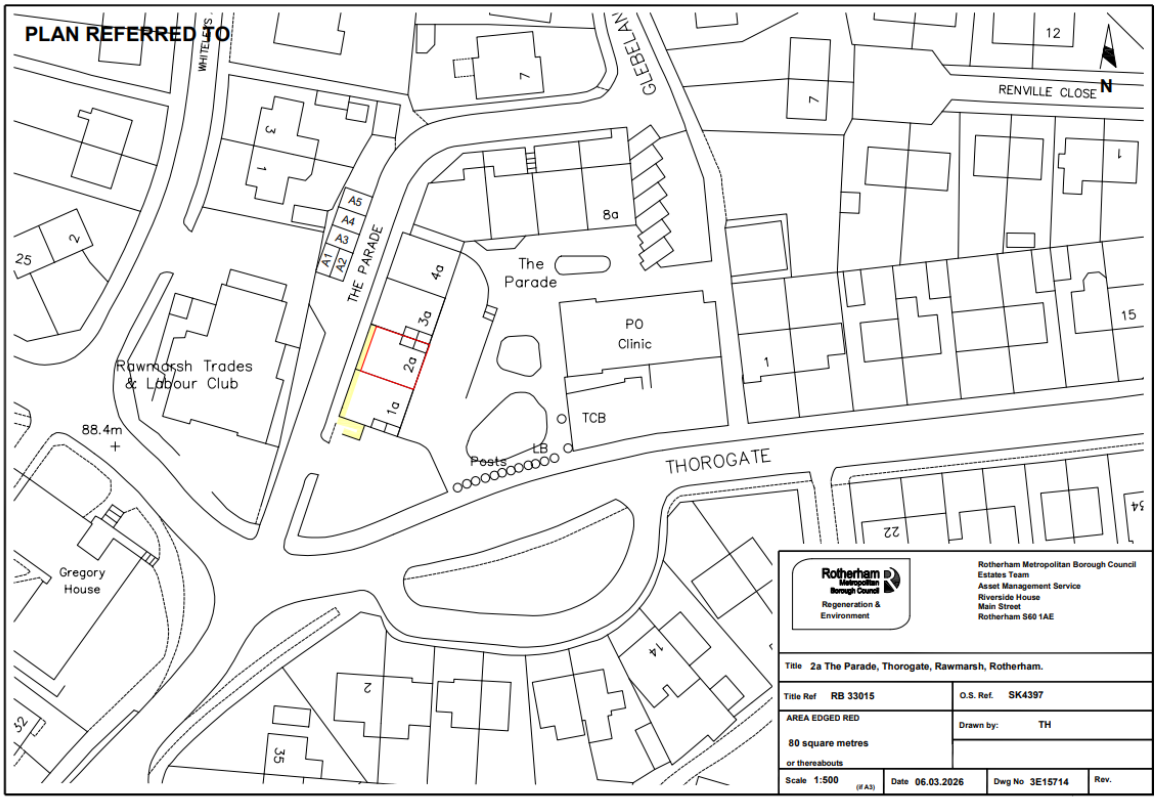
Appendix 6 – Appropriation of 2a The Parade, Thorogate, Rawmarsh

Plan for the appropriation of 2a The Parade, Thorogate, Rawmarsh



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Name of policy:	Housing Acquisitions Policy
Date approved at Cabinet:	
Minute reference:	
Review date:	

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Aims and objectives
3. Policy scope
4. Delegation
5. Finance
6. Performance monitoring
7. Related policies

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1. Introduction

This document sets out the Council's policy on acquiring homes to meet local housing need. It sets out the different methods of acquisition included in the policy, how the Council will assess housing need for acquisitions and the criteria for decision-making when pursuing or rejecting each acquisition opportunity. It also sets out how acquired homes may be utilised.

2. Aims and objectives

The Council delivers affordable housing through its Housing Delivery Programme. This includes

- Council build: New build homes on Council-owned sites.
- SME: Homes delivered by Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) developers through the Council's innovative Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative.
- Section 106: Acquisitions from developers to meet their affordable housing planning obligations.
- Market Acquisitions: Acquisitions from the open market.

The Council aims to deliver homes through acquisitions that meet strategic need, are in areas of high demand and/or in locations where there is little or no recent or forecasted delivery via the Housing Delivery Programme (Council build, SME or Section 106 acquisitions).

The acquisition of homes through this policy will help improve access to council homes across the borough in order to meet local housing needs.

The delivery of Council housing through this programme aims to help meet the following priorities, set out in the Rotherham Housing Strategy 2025-30:

- Leading by example by building and acquiring hundreds of new Council homes
- We will provide a range of housing to suit the needs of individual households
- Bringing empty homes back into use

It will also contribute to the delivery of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2026-2031 – Priority 2 – Increase to the supply of and access to suitable, affordable housing

3. Policy scope

a. Methods of acquisition

The following section covers all acquisition types that will be covered by this policy.

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The majority are based on approaches made by members of the public offering the Council the opportunity to acquire properties. In addition to this, the Council will actively seek properties to acquire that meet current housing need on the open market.

i. The Right of First Refusal on homes sold by the Council through the Right to Buy Scheme. If a former Council tenant sells their property purchased through the Right to Buy Scheme within the first ten years of the initial sale, the Council has right of first refusal to reacquire the property. If the property is sold within the first five years of the initial sale, the former tenant must pay back a percentage of the discount they received on the property.

ii. Council homes sold through the Right to Buy scheme that are outside the Right of First Refusal period. The Council is occasionally offered former Council homes where there is no statutory obligation for the current occupant to do so.

iii. Acquisition of homes on the open market through local agents to meet an identified need which cannot be met through existing stock or new build provisions.

iv. Acquisition of empty homes, identified through Council Tax records by the Empty Homes Officer. This can help meet housing need whilst reducing the number of empty homes in the Borough.

v. Disposals from Housing Associations that are offered to the Council. The Council is offered properties from Housing Associations on an infrequent basis due to low demand and/or cost of refurbishment. The Council will consider these offers in areas of strategic importance.

vi. New build properties that are not part of Section 106 agreements. These are offered to the Council on an ad-hoc basis but are usually at full market value.

vii. S106 acquisitions secured via planning policy as detailed in the Supplementary Planning Document No. 8: Affordable Housing and are limited to geographical areas where there are developments large enough to provide affordable housing.

b. Assessment of acquisition opportunities

All potential housing acquisition opportunities will be considered against a set of approved principles to determine whether they support the Council's strategic housing objectives. In considering acquisition opportunities, the Council will consider:

i. Strategic housing need, including current and emerging demand for council housing in the relevant location and existing stock and turnover levels.

ii. The supply and delivery of affordable housing, including recent and anticipated delivery of social housing through all Housing Delivery Programme workstreams:

a. Council build

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b. SME - Homes delivered by Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise developers through the Council's Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative.

c. Section 106 acquisitions

iii. Property suitability, including the condition, adaptability, and long-term viability of the homes for inclusion in the Council's housing stock.

iv. Value for money, ensuring that acquisitions represent an appropriate and sustainable use of Housing Revenue Account resources.

v. Former Council homes which support the efficient management and sustainability of the housing stock may be prioritised where they align with strategic need.

The Council will not acquire:

i. Properties offered with sitting tenants.

ii. Leaseholder properties, except for flats where the block is in Council ownership and there are existing Council rent tenancies in the block.

iii. Shared ownership properties.

iv. Properties of a "defective" construction type (Housing Act 1984).

v. Properties where the homeowner wishes to stay in the property as a tenant.

This policy provides a framework to guide decision-making but does not create any obligation on the Council to acquire any property. The Council retains discretion to pursue or decline any acquisition opportunity and may withdraw from a proposed acquisition at any point prior to completion.

c. Post-acquisition

All homes acquired under this policy will become part of the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) stock. Acquired homes will be made available in accordance with the current Housing Allocation Policy as accommodation to support the Council's statutory homelessness duties, or to meet other identified housing need in the borough.

4. Delegation

All decisions require the approval of the delegated officer, the Service Director of Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, as approved 16th October 2023.

5. Finance

Housing acquisition opportunities will only be pursued if there is funding available at the time it is offered, and the Council has the right to refuse any housing acquisition opportunity where no funding is available at that time.

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The budget position will be reported to Cabinet annually as part of the Housing Capital Cabinet Report.

6. Monitoring

The Policy will be reviewed every two years, and any changes proposed will be reported to Cabinet for approval.

The Council will record all housing acquisition opportunities, both completed and rejected, to monitor trends in types and sizes of homes offered to the Council, to enable forward planning of further acquisitions and to inform the Housing Delivery Programme.

7. Related policies and legislation

a. The Housing Act 2004 c.34 Part 6 Housing Act 2004 (legislation.gov.uk).
b. Housing Allocation Policy – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
c. Policy Statement on Rents for Social Housing: Policy statement on rents for social housing - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
d. The Council's Empty Homes Scope & Standard
e. Rotherham Supplementary Planning Document No. 8: Affordable Housing

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PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Housing Delivery Programme Update – July 2026	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** Strategic Housing and Development
Lead person: Alex Young	**Contact number:** 01709 822098
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☒ **Service/Function** ☐ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
This Cabinet report, to which this Equalities Impact Assessment is attached, outlines proposals that will continue to support the delivery of hundreds of new council homes by Summer 2027. This will be achieved through a combination of developing Council-owned land and acquiring properties from the private sector.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity
All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

Appendix 8
PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are. When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? *(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)*	✓	
Could the proposal affect service users? *(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)*	✓	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? *(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)*	✓	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? *(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)*	✓	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)*	✓	
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)*		✓
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6.**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4.**

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.**

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Appendix 8
PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

*(**think about** the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)*

Through the Housing Delivery Programme, the Council aims to meet a range of housing needs based on data and evidence held about local demographics and trends. The housing to be built will help to ensure the following groups can access good quality, affordable and well managed homes: families, older people, people with disabilities, single person households. The Programme has also been designed to ensure homes are built in a range of areas across the borough including deprived areas where the private sector is unlikely to deliver the homes needed, without public sector intervention. Improving deprived areas through housing and regeneration helps to tackle inequalities.

Council homes are let via the Allocations Policy, for which a full equalities assessment has been carried out. This will ensure homes are allocated fairly and that no groups with protected characteristics are disadvantaged.

The Strategic Housing and Development Service contacts tenants who move into new build properties to carry out a follow-up questionnaire or 'new build survey'. This is done to find out more about the people who have moved into recently built council homes. The equalities and diversity information is analysed and compared against the profile of people on the Council's Housing Register, so we can identify any potential issues i.e. certain protected characteristic groups being under or over-represented in new build properties.

- **Key findings**

***(think about** any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)*

An assessment of the programme has found that it will enable delivery of homes to meet a range of needs including people with disabilities, older people, families with children and single people.

Actions

- Conduct new build survey and analyse equalities and diversity data (ongoing)
- For each scheme, consult with colleagues in ASC and CYPS to identify any particular needs that can be met through the scheme - ongoing
- Review this equalities analysis annually, alongside future annual housing development Cabinet reports - annual

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	13/03/26

Appendix 8
PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	27/03/26
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Nick Ward, Place and Quality Manager

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Michael Hellewell	Head of Strategic Housing and Development	13/04/26
Alex Young	Housing Growth Manager	14/04/26

6. Publishing	
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	27/03/26
Report title and date	Housing Delivery Programme Update – July 2026
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	06/07/26
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	07/04/26

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Housing Delivery Programme Update – July 2026	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 27 March 2026	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** Strategic Housing and Development
Lead person: Alex Young	**Contact number:** 01709 822098
Is this a:	
[ ] **Strategy/Policy** [X] **Service/Function** [ ] **Other**	
If other, please specify	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)**
Michael Hellewell	Rotherham Council	Head of Strategic Housing and Development
Alex Young	Rotherham Council	Housing Growth Manger
Nick Ward	Rotherham Council	Place and Quality Manager

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)
This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, other groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

This Equalities Analysis (EA) has been produced in support of an upcoming Cabinet report; Housing Delivery Programme Update – July 2026. This report provides an update on the Housing Delivery Programme, summarising progress since the previous programme update report approved by Cabinet in January 2026. Several changes are required to the programme and renewed approvals are sought accordingly.

The programme has been designed to ensure homes are built in a range of areas across the borough including deprived areas where the private sector is unlikely to deliver the homes needed, without public sector intervention. Improving deprived areas through housing and regeneration helps to tackle inequalities. The Strategic Housing and Development Service has already delivered specialist homes on former garage and brownfield sites which support the diverse housing needs across the borough.

Council homes are let via the Allocations Policy, which was reviewed in 2025 and is subject to a full equalities assessment. This document ensures new homes are allocated fairly and that no groups with protected characteristics are disadvantaged.

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

The Housing Delivery Programme is underpinned by analysis of housing need and demographic data which has been gained from a variety of sources including:

- Profile of applicants on Council's Housing Register (numbers of households eligible for age restricted accommodation etc). The Housing Occupational Health Team assesses households to determine their need which leads to a

priority of allocation under the Housing Allocations Policy. A regular review of the profile of people on the housing register takes place to help plan for the types of new homes needed.

- Local population demographic data (Census 2021 emerging)
- Indices of Multiple Deprivation
- Profile of existing Council tenants (including protected characteristics)
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment
- Intelligence from Strategic Housing Forum which is attended by partners that represent different interests and groups e.g., homelessness and young people etc
- Ward Members will receive specific briefings on potential sites in their wards and their feedback will be considered and reflected in individual scheme EAs along with other relevant factors.
- Ward Profiles contain detailed, localised information both profiling housing stock in the ward and demand.
- The Strategic Housing and Development service has worked with the Neighbourhood Service to assist with consultation and dissemination of information about development in localities, identifying alignment with ward priorities. Again, any feedback will be included in individual scheme EAs.
- Housing Involvement Panel which includes Council tenant volunteers.
- Data from new rented, shared ownership and open market sales is analysed to understand the equality impact of each development. The profiling of tenants/ owners is also reflected in completions report and any lessons learnt are applied when developing new projects.

Where possible the Delivery Programme will focus on increasing a specific housing type so homes can meet identified local housing needs. This is often where a particular group of people have been disadvantaged by the local housing market i.e., they cannot afford, or do not have choice in where/how they live. The Programme aims to make housing accessible to all regardless of their income and need. This includes taking a role in increasing the supply to meet local need, as well as enabling and encouraging other stakeholders to increase supply across the private market.

Demographic information

- The Census population of Rotherham in 2021 is 265,800, an increase of 8,200 (+3.2%) compared with the 2011 Census, with around half living in and around the main urban area of Rotherham. The remainder live in smaller towns such as Wath, Dinnington and Maltby, and in numerous large villages and rural communities, all of which have their own distinct identities
- The 2021 Census further shows that Rotherham had 113,900 households, compared with 108,300 in the 2011 Census, an increase of 5,600 or 5.2%. In 2021, 17.7% of Rotherham's population were under 15 years, whilst 25.8% were aged 60 or over. The population of Rotherham aged 60 or over is slightly higher than the England figure of 24.2% and the Yorkshire and Humber figure of 25%.
- Rotherham's young population (under 15) increased from 46,000 in 2011 to 47,100 in 2021 (a 2.4% increase). This increase followed a 6% fall from 48,900 in 2001 to 46,000 in 2011. Whilst the school age population has

increased, the number of children aged 0-4 has decreased from 15,738 in 2011 to 14,600 (a 7.3% reduction).

- Rotherham's older population (over 60) has increased from 61,500 in 2011 to 68,600 in the 2021 Census, an 11.5% rise (51,700 in 2001). Rotherham's population is ageing broadly in line with national trends and the percentage aged over 85 increased from 2.1% in 2011 to 2.3% in 2021.

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?

None identified following wider discussion with colleagues, however information has yet to be collected on the programmes completed over the last few years. We are seeking to ensure that future housing developments continue to provide for the protected characteristics identified and have surveyed households in the Council's new properties during 2026. This will include information on protected characteristics.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

The overall progress of the Housing Delivery Programme will be reported to Cabinet as part of the request to proceed with the subsequent year's programme.

Progress with individual schemes will be reported to Housing Senior Management Team and other meetings/forums as appropriate.

Officer decisions will be formally recorded and published.

Surveys will continue to be carried out with the occupants of new homes, and equality and diversity results analysed and compared with other relevant data sets such as the Housing Register. This will allow the Council to understand whether any protected characteristic groups are over or under-represented in new build homes and act, if required.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	The Council holds a wealth of housing intelligence data which will be used to determine local housing need and prioritise areas for investment. A new Housing Strategy was approved by Cabinet by September 2025 and published at the end of 2025. It sets the direction for housing priorities for 2025-2030. The local community will be consulted on individual schemes as part of the planning process.

Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	The Cabinet Member for Housing has been engaged in the development of the programme from the outset and has been involved in shaping the overall strategic priorities for housing, through the Housing Strategy consultation. Ward Members will receive specific briefings on potential sites in their wards.

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

Through the Housing Delivery Programme, the Council aims to increase choice and access to more homes, particularly affordable homes. Allocation to housing is dealt with via the Council's Allocations Policy. The Policy sets out how priority is allocated to people who have specific needs including people with protected characteristics.

The Programme will meet a range of housing needs based on data and evidence held about local demographics and trends. By understanding more about local need and by enabling and delivering a wider range of house types, the Programme should support and help remove the barriers that exist for specific groups of people. Particularly young and older people who are reliant on welfare support, and those who are physically disabled or have a family member who is disabled, requiring ground floor, accessible accommodation.

Of the sites listed in this report, consideration is being given to the following specific property types;

- Accessible homes for older people (+55 years),
- Larger family homes (3 and 4 bedrooms)
- Homes for wheelchair user and those with acute medical needs
- Smaller one- and two-bedroom properties

Housing Occupational Therapists are consulted when site layouts are being explored.

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?

No.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

Homes delivered through the Programme will help to improve quality of life for households who may currently living in accommodation not suitable for their needs.

Individual schemes will be shaped in consideration of the different housing needs for each area, and the overall programme will include homes that meet the following needs:

- Larger family homes
- Homes for single people
- Homes for older people and people with disabilities and/or support needs

What effect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

No negative impacts have been identified/are anticipated.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: Housing Delivery Programme Update – July 2026
Directorate and service area: Adult Care, Housing & Public Health. Strategic Housing & Development Service
Lead Manager: Alex Young
Summary of findings:
An assessment of the Programme has found that it will enable delivery of homes to meet a range of needs including people with disabilities, older people, families with children and single people. The Programme will deliver homes which will help to improve quality of life for households who may currently living in accommodation not suitable for their needs. By building in deprived areas where the public sector is not delivering the housing required, and focussing on the needs of local people in those areas, the Programme meets the needs of particular groups of people disadvantaged by the local housing market No negative impacts have been identified/are anticipated.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Monitor the impact of the housing development programme on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic	All	Ongoing

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Sarah Clyde	Service Director of Housing	07/05/26
Ian Spicer	Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing & Public Health	01/06/26
Councillor Linda Beresford	Cabinet Member for Housing	15/05/26

7. Publishing	
The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date Equality Analysis completed	27/03/26
Report title and date	Housing Delivery Programme Update – July 2026 06/07/26
Date report sent for publication	06/07/26

Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	07/04/26

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Appendix 10 - Climate Impact Assessment

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	Increase	Vehicle movements to and from sites will be generated during demolition and construction will create emissions, through the movement of building and waste materials and personnel. Addition of the homes to the Council's maintenance programme will also result in increased transport emissions in future years.	While it is possible that new households will increase vehicle movements, they may also reduce them, depending on where new residents work and access services. We do not know before a development is built where new residents will move from and whether this move will increase or decrease vehicle movements. However, it should be noted that the housing provision within this development includes provision for car parking as per planning policy. This does not in itself discourage car use, but this issue is outside of the	Where appropriate, prospective contractors will be required to demonstrate how they will minimise and mitigate emissions from vehicle movements as part of the construction, during the tendering process. All new housing developments are subject to planning controls and the planning process at the plan and policy development and planning application stages takes into account vehicle movements.	Assessment of whether the new households increase or decrease carbon emissions through vehicle movements is not monitored at this time. Overall, Borough emissions are reported annually but are subject to a 2-year lag.

			remit of this carbon impact assessment. Some new properties included in the programme, i.e., the homes the Council purchases as strategic acquisitions will be built regardless of whether the Council purchases them or not.		
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	Construction will generate waste materials through demolition, exporting of materials from groundworks and waste construction materials.	Although new households may not necessarily mean more people living in the Borough, they are likely to create a small increase in the overall volume of waste created and, in the distance travelled by waste collection vehicles.	Where appropriate, prospective contractors will be required to produce a plan demonstrating how they will minimise and mitigate vehicle emissions from the movement of waste, during the tendering process. This will include the recycling / re use of materials on site where possible.	Where appropriate, we will monitor contractor's implementation of waste minimisation and management plans.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Increase	No direct emissions increase for the council.	The new properties built as part of the programme will increase emissions from the heating, lighting and powering of the new properties. Properties designed using the Future Homes Standard should decarbonise as the grid becomes more renewable without additional retrofit and are	The Council will ensure that the new homes are high quality, energy efficient and able to meet the challenge of climate change. The use of modern methods of construction will be considered, where value for money can be demonstrated as well as carbon reduction.	Construction will be monitored to ensure that specifications are met and, where appropriate, the energy performance of new buildings will be monitored once occupied to ensure that the stated performance standards are met.

			estimated to be 75% more efficient than part L building regulations. However, as some of these are new builds, there will still be additional emissions until the National Grid becomes decarbonised and as part of the buildings embodied carbon.	All existing stock acquired through the Market Acquisitions will be improved to Energy Performance Certificate C as part of the refurbishment work required to meet the Council's lettable standard.	
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	Emissions will be increased from onsite vehicles and equipment and the lighting of the sites. Also, from the heating lighting and powering of site offices and cabins. The manufacture of construction materials will increase emissions.	The emissions produced in the short term through construction and materials used will impact on Borough wide emissions. Some of the building materials will be manufactured within the Borough.	The use of modern methods of construction will be considered for all new schemes, where value for money can be demonstrated as well as carbon reduction.	This will be monitored through the procurement process.
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Unknown	It is possible that some mature trees will be removed as part of the development of new sites which will impact on the borough's ability to capture carbon. Some of the Council's own construction projects will include the planting of trees as part of any landscaping schemes.	Removal of trees without replacement could, depending how they are disposed of, increase carbon emissions. This activity will also reduce the carbon sequestration capacity of the Borough. The balance between removal of mature trees and re-planting as part of landscaping schemes is unknown.	Where trees are present on a development site they will be retained where possible. The planning process deals with protection of trees on development sites and where it allows their removal usually requires equivalent or better replacement.	None.

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

N/A

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

Access to a long-term good quality home could help improve residents' resilience more generally. The inclusion of energy efficiency measures such as insulation could help make the homes more resistant during periods of extreme heat.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

Climate change poses a significant threat to environments, individuals, communities, and economies on local, national, and international scales. In recognition of this the Council has aimed to be net carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030, and for Rotherham as a whole to achieve the same position by 2040.

Council Build: Through its own delivery programme, the Council has the ability to ensure that the new homes are high quality and energy efficient, which will contribute to reducing domestic carbon emissions in the longer-term.

Section 106 Acquisitions: The level of carbon emissions allowed for all new homes is subject to increasing controls. Changes to Part L of the building regulations came into force in June 2022, requiring a 31% reduction in CO2 emissions compared to 2013 standards. All new homes that submit plans after June 2022 or which have not begun construction before June 2023 must comply. New homes acquired by the Council from private builders are specified and built to the housebuilder's usual specification with some changes paid for by the Council to ensure the Council's requirements are met. Further to this the Council will examine whether further changes can be agreed, on a case-by-case basis, to reduce carbon emissions beyond the requirements of building regulations.

Market Acquisitions: All existing stock acquired through the Market Acquisitions will be improved to Energy Performance Certificate C as part of the refurbishment work required to meet the Council's lettable standard. Future energy performance improvements will be considered as part of wider stock investment programmes.

Both Council-build and acquisitions will increase emissions. Whilst mitigations are in place, with an explicit aim to exceed Building Regulations Part L requirements where feasible, the overall net carbon emissions status of Rotherham's social housing stock will increase in the short term. Homes brought forward with electrically sourced heating and hot water provision, however, should become effective carbon neutral once the electricity grid itself achieves zero-carbon. In addition to delivering new homes, the Council continues to improve and sustain its existing homes, including investment to maintain the Decent Homes Standard and improve energy and thermal efficiency.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Nick Ward Place and Quality Manager Strategic Housing and Development Service Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	No relevant data or research used.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	No relevant data or research used.
Validation.	Tracking Reference: CIA 627 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title
Tenant Satisfaction Measures and Housing Regulatory Compliance – Six Monthly Update

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)
Louise Robson
Head of Housing Improvement and Governance
louise.robson@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report sets out the 2025/26 Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) survey for Housing Services. It shows how the service has performed against previous years and national data bench marking. 11 out of 12 tenant satisfaction measures are currently above the national median, based on 2024/25 data published by the Regulator of Social Housing. When comparing Local Authorities (LAs) only, the Council ranks in the upper quartile for 11 of these 12 measures. The report also sets out areas that require improvement and actions in response.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the content of the report.

2. Agrees to receive a further update in six months' time.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Rotherham Council Tenant Satisfaction Measures
Appendix 2 Initial Equality Screening Assessment – part A

Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Reshaping consumer regulation: Our new approach

Consumer Standards (April 2024)

Consumer Standards Code of Practice (April 2024)

Social Housing Regulator's Approach to Inspections

Tenant Satisfaction Measures

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Tenant Satisfaction Measures and Housing Regulatory Compliance – Six Monthly Update

1. Background

1.1 Following the passing of the Social Housing (Regulation) Act in July 2023 the Regulator for Social Housing consulted on revised consumer standards for social housing landlords. The new consumer standards came into force on 1st April 2024.

1.2 The Regulator of Social Housing (the Regulator) will gather evidence and assess providers' ability to deliver a housing service which meets the standards through inspections at least every four years and through desktop reviews of performance data such as Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs), which are a mixture of performance measures and tenant perception survey results. This proactive regime replaces the largely reactive regulatory framework that was in place prior to 1st April 2024.

1.3 To ensure regulatory compliance and inspection readiness, the Council has established assurance mechanisms, including a Housing Regulatory Assurance Board chaired by the Chief Executive, to oversee the collection and review of evidence demonstrating the Council's compliance with the new consumer standards.

1.4 The Council has now submitted to the Regulator of Social Housing three sets of TSM data covering the 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years. The Regulator of Social Housing also published the national dataset of TSM results for 2024/25 in November 2025. This data was provided in the last update and is contained in full at Appendix 1.

1.5 The Government has introduced several reforms to strengthen social housing regulation, including the new consumer standards, the inspection regime, the Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs), and an enhanced role for the Housing Ombudsman. More recently, it has also consulted on statutory timescales for urgent repairs under Awaab's Law and proposed new competence and conduct standards.

1.6 Since 27 October 2025, social landlords must act promptly on reports of damp, mould, and emergency hazards: issues posing imminent health risks must be made safe within 24 hours; serious but non-imminent hazards must be investigated within 10 working days, with findings shared within three days and remedial action starting within five days (or physical works within 12 weeks if immediate start is not possible). These measures aim to ensure timely intervention and protect tenants' health.

1.7 The Competence and Conduct Standard, which comes into force in October 2026, requires social housing providers to ensure that staff have the appropriate skills, knowledge, behaviours, and leadership to deliver safe, respectful, and high-quality services. It introduces expectations around workforce development, codes of conduct, tenant involvement, and mandatory housing qualifications for senior managers and executives, with a transition

period to allow compliance. The standard was introduced in response to serious failings highlighted by the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and other cases, aiming to professionalise the sector, strengthen accountability, and rebuild tenant trust.

2. Key Issues

Tenant Satisfaction Measures

2.1 Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs) are a series of 22 performance measures, which must be collected by all social housing landlords with more than 1,000 properties. Data for ten of the performance measures is submitted to the Regulator for Social Housing directly by the Council. Data for the other 12 performance measures is captured through a Tenant Perception Survey. The performance measures, including the survey questions, are prescribed by the Regulator and cannot be deviated from.

2.2 During the 2025/26 financial year, 3,334 tenants were surveyed by an independent research partner (Kwest Research Ltd), representing over 16.5% of the total tenant population. This substantially exceeds the Regulator of Social Housing's minimum requirement to survey 5% of tenants and demonstrates the Council's strong commitment to meaningful tenant engagement. As with previous years, contact methods remained aligned with industry best practice, with 85% of surveys conducted by telephone and 15% via email. Importantly, the tenants surveyed closely reflected the Council's tenant Equality and Diversity profile, providing confidence that the results are representative and inclusive.

2.3 In the financial year 2023/24, the Council recorded an overall tenant satisfaction rate of 76.9%, exceeding the national median of 71.3% for all social landlords. This positive trend continued into 2024/25, with overall satisfaction rising to 78.2%, marking a 1.3 percentage point increase year-on-year. The year-end position for 2025/26 indicates a slight decline to 77.6%, representing a 0.6 percentage point decrease compared to the previous year. Despite this dip, the figure remains 0.7 percentage points higher than the 2023/24 baseline, and 5.8 percentage points above the national median, suggesting sustained performance above national benchmarks.

2.4 The year-end position for 2025/26 shows a slight decline in satisfaction that the home is well maintained, reducing by 0.3 percentage points to 77.4% compared to the end of year 2024/25 figures. However, satisfaction with home safety improved to 81.8%, and both repairs-related measures continued to rise: satisfaction with the overall repairs service reached 78.7%, and satisfaction with the time taken to complete repairs increased to 78.1%. Compared to the 2023/24 baseline, these represent gains of 4.6 and 6.0 percentage points, respectively, highlighting sustained improvement in service delivery.

2.5 At the year-end position for 2025/26, the percentage of tenants who feel well-informed has decreased slightly by 0.4 percentage points to 76.4%, while perceptions of fairness and respect have remained stable at 83.1%. However, the proportion of tenants who feel listened to has reduced by 1.8 percentage

points to 69.7%, and satisfaction with complaints handling has remained static at 34.5%.

2.6 In 2023/24, tenant satisfaction with the Council's approach to managing anti-social behaviour stood at 64.9%. The 2024/25 year-end results showed a slight decline in satisfaction, falling to 63.3%. This downward trend continued into the year-end position for 2025/26, with satisfaction decreasing by a further 1.7 percentage points to 61.6%. Despite this reduction, the Council's performance in this area remains above the national median of 59.5%, indicating relative strength compared to sector benchmarks. When focusing on national comparators for Local Authorities only, the Council's ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) handling score of 61.6% sits above the upper quartile threshold of 61.4%.

2.7 The Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs) for 2024/25 showed that satisfaction with how well communal areas are kept clean and well maintained experienced the largest decline, falling by 3.5 percentage points compared to 2023/24. This decline was reinforced by tenant comments captured through the tenant perception survey. In response, the Council invested an additional £135,000 in caretaking services for 2025/26 and introduced refreshed service level agreements to strengthen standards and accountability. As a result of this targeted investment and service improvement, satisfaction with communal areas became the most improved measure year on year between 2024/25 and 2025/26, increasing by 4.8 percentage points.

2.8 Targeted actions have already been implemented to address key areas, including ASB, and further improve customer service and satisfaction. Key initiatives include:

- The development of the recently launched tenant-led Learning from Complaints Panel.

- Review of the service operating model for tenancy and ASB case management to improve efficiency and outcomes.

- Delivery of a targeted training and development programme for area housing teams, focusing on ASB tools and powers, hate incidents, and effective case handling.

- ASB case management oversight and quality assurance have been strengthened across the service. Routine Quality Assurance auditing has been embedded at a senior level to monitor compliance, alongside regular case monitoring meetings to review all cases escalated for legal action. Trauma-informed practice continues to be embedded through additional staff training, with a review of the ASB Policy underway to ensure this approach is fully reflected.

- ASB and hate crime web content will be updated to clearly set out all available reporting routes and explain the next steps once a report has been received.

2.9 The ten council-reported TSMs also remain strong. Repairs performance is a particular strength, mirroring the positive perception survey results:

• 97.5% of non-emergency repairs were completed within target timescales (15.0 percentage points above the national median).
• 98.6% of emergency repairs were completed within target (3.7 percentage points above the national median).

In addition, the Council has achieved full compliance across all health and safety-related measures, except for Gas Safety, which stands at 99.9%. 13 properties were non-compliant as at end of March 2026 and actions are underway to gain access to these properties. The proportion of non-decent homes has risen slightly from 6.38% at the end of 2024/25 to 7.58% at the end of 2025/26. By comparison, the median non-decency rate across Local Authorities in 2024/25 was 3.2%. This increase was anticipated and reflects the accelerated progress of the Stock Condition Survey Programme. As the programme continues, the recorded level of non-decent stock is expected to fluctuate as a more accurate and up-to-date picture of stock condition emerges.

2.10 In addition to the core landlord measures relating to stock decency, repairs completion rates and health and safety compliance, landlord-reported measures also provide insight into the prevalence of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and tenant experience.

2.11 In 2025/26, the Council recorded 69.8 ASB cases per 1,000 properties, which is 33.8 above the national median. Reported hate incidents stood at 0.3 per 1,000 properties, 0.4 below the national median. While this may initially appear positive, it raises a potential concern regarding under-reporting. As part of the improvement journey, a detailed audit of ASB cases is underway to ensure hate incidents are being accurately identified and recorded. Where gaps are identified, targeted actions will be implemented to strengthen staff awareness, reporting pathways, and case classification.

2.12 Complaint volumes also highlight an area for improvement. In 2025/26, there were 23.1 stage one complaints per 1,000 properties (30.4 below the national median) and 1.8 stage two complaints per 1,000 properties (6.5 below the national median). While low complaint rates can suggest satisfaction, it is recognised that in this context they are more likely to indicate barriers to reporting or a lack of tenant confidence in the complaints process. In response, a programme of improvements is being taken forward, focused on increasing accessibility, transparency and trust. This includes making it easier for tenants to raise complaints through clearer communication and simplified channels, alongside strengthening internal processes to ensure timely, thorough and learning-focused responses. These changes are being aligned with Housing Ombudsman expectations, with a strong emphasis on using complaints as a driver for service improvement.

2.13 The tenant perception survey is now a rolling programme, and results will continue to be published in line with the regulatory requirements. The larger sample size will continue and the contract with KWest is due for review during

2026/27. A six-monthly update will continue to be reported to Cabinet. Full results are provided at Appendix 1.

Regulatory Compliance Update

2.14 The introduction of the Social Housing Regulations requires landlords to meet four consumer standards through the delivery of their services. Each standard consists of 'required outcomes', which are listed below:

Consumer standard	Outcomes
Safety and Quality	Stock quality Decency Health and safety Repairs, maintenance and planned improvements Adaptations
Transparency, Influence and Accountability	Fairness and respect Diverse needs Engagement with tenants Information about landlord services Performance information Complaints handling Self-referrals to the Regulator
Neighbourhood and Community	Maintenance of shared spaces Local cooperation Safer neighbourhoods Domestic abuse
Tenancy	Allocations and lettings Tenancy sustainment and evictions Tenure Mutual exchange

<u>Safety and Quality Standard</u>

2.15 The Council is advancing its improvements in Safety and Quality through targeted workstreams focused on stock quality, decency, health and safety, and repairs.

2.16 A comprehensive Stock Condition and HHSRS (Housing Health and Safety Rating System) survey programme began in April 2025, with a target of 6,000 surveys by March 2026. By combining MLCS3 (RMBC's Stock Condition Surveys Provider) and the Council's internal surveying team, the annual target of 6,000 surveys was exceeded. MLCS3 completed 5,980 surveys, with a further 510 undertaken in-house, resulting in a total of 6,490 surveys completed in 2025/26. In addition, there are 763 valid surveys for current dwellings completed within the last five years, bringing the overall number of surveyed properties to 7,253, representing 36.65% of stock to the end of March 2026.

2.17 At the end of 2025/26, 92.42% of council homes now meet the Decent Homes Standard. 18,289 properties meet the decent homes standard with 1,499 classified as non-decent. (A non-decent home is one that has either serious hazards (like dangerous electrics, severe damp, or fire risks), is in poor repair (leaking roof, broken structure), lacks modern facilities (like an up-to-date kitchen/bathroom), or is not adequately heated and insulated for a reasonable degree of thermal comfort). This figure will adjust as more survey data is collected and works are planned to ensure these homes are brought up to the correct standard.

Other Key improvements include:

a) A dedicated Damp and Mould triage approach was introduced to ensure reports are assessed promptly, prioritised based on risk, and progressed in line with statutory timescales. This strengthened early identification of hazards and reduced delays in corrective action.
b) Make Every Contact Count (MECC) training has been delivered to all frontline council employees to improve awareness and understanding of damp and mould. The training covers why damp and mould occur, where residents can be referred for support, how to encourage conversations with residents, and how to promote positive behaviour changes to help prevent and address damp and mould issues.
c) Tablet devices were issued to Technical Officers, enabling real time recording of damp and mould assessments, works completed and follow up actions while on site. This has reduced reliance on manual processes and improved accuracy and timeliness of records.
d) New performance measures were introduced specifically for damp and mould, including tracking appointments offered within statutory timescales for emergency and significant cases. This represents a shift from purely volume-based reporting to timeliness and outcome focused performance management, in line with Awaab's Law expectations.
e) Awarded 'substantial assurance' from internal audits of fire safety, asbestos and water safety.
f) Delivered a £33.5m capital investment programme to improve existing stock in 2025/26. In 2025/26, Housing Services completed improvement works to around 7,000 council homes. This included roof renewals, boiler replacements, insulation upgrades, kitchen renewals, environmental works to public areas, and major refurbishment of void properties ahead of reletting.

<u>Transparency, Influence, and Accountability Standard</u>

2.18 Tenant engagement is jointly managed through a small in house team and also via a contract with RotherFed, with active panels and feedback mechanisms in place.

2.19 Over the past year, tenants have worked collaboratively with the Council to co-create a new Tenant Engagement Framework focused on what matters most to them. Between spring and autumn 2025, a series of co-design workshops with engaged tenants and key council colleagues shaped the framework's aims, outcomes and values for the next four years, complemented

by a targeted survey of 107 tenants to ensure inclusivity and reflect barriers faced by tenants with protected characteristics.

2.20 The Tenant Connectors Pool (a diverse group of tenants who can contribute to engagement activities in a way that fits around their availability) has grown to over 200 members, broadening engagement opportunities, with regular communication via our tenant magazine, Home Matters.

2.21 A Diverse Needs Framework has been implemented with processes designed to more effectively capture, record and respond to tenants' varied needs. The Council adopts a strength-based approach, focusing on individuals' capabilities and working collaboratively to promote wellbeing. A structured Recognise, Record, Respond model is used to ensure that:

Diverse needs and indicators of vulnerability are recognised,
Relevant information is accurately and respectfully recorded,
Tailored services and support are provided.

2.22 A mandatory eLearning module on how to recognise, record and respond to diverse needs has now been rolled out to new starters, with ongoing refresher training for existing staff.

2.23 The Learning from Complaints Panel continues to be developed to strengthen complaint handling and embed service learning.

Neighbourhood and Community Standard

2.24 Area Housing Management Teams work in close partnership with Council services, including the Community Protection Service, and South Yorkshire Police to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and hate incidents. Co-location with policing teams and regular multi-agency meetings enable a coordinated approach, making full use of available enforcement powers. Area Housing Officers manage tenancy-related ASB cases, with more serious or complex cases escalated to the specialist ASB Team. Victims are supported throughout via direct intervention and referrals to appropriate services, including commissioned programmes aimed at addressing perpetrator behaviour. Through these strong partnerships, structured multi-agency working, and a clear focus on both enforcement and victim support, the Council aims to deliver an effective and responsive approach to ASB and hate incidents across its communities.

2.25 The Council is committed to safeguarding and supporting victims of domestic abuse through proactive, practical measures embedded within its housing services. This approach goes beyond compliance, combining partnership working through the Safer Rotherham Partnership with investment in secure accommodation, targeted security measures, and continuous service improvement informed by lived experience and reviews.

2.26 Tenant feedback from the Tenant Perception Survey highlighted concerns around a perceived lack of enforcement, feelings of unsafety, poor communication, and limited follow up on ASB cases. These concerns are

reflected in declining satisfaction with ASB handling, which fell from 64.9% to 63.3%, and further to 61.6% by the end of 2025/26. In response, a programme of service improvements is being implemented to strengthen case management, improve the consistency and visibility of enforcement action, and enhance communication and follow up with residents. This includes clearer standards for updates to victims, improved partnership working with key agencies, and a renewed focus on early intervention and prevention. Alongside these operational improvements, greater transparency has been introduced through the launch of a dedicated ASB webpage in April 2026, with quarterly updates. This provides accessible information on case volumes, ward level and category level trends. Plans are also in place to publish information on enforcement action, where appropriate, supported by ongoing improvements to data quality, accuracy, and reporting. Together, these actions aim to rebuild tenant confidence by both strengthening the service response and making performance and outcomes more visible and accountable.

2.27 Implementation of the ASB and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) modules within the Housing Management System is currently in progress. This work will support more efficient case management, improved oversight, and a better experience for tenants.

2.28 Targeted investment and service improvements have led to a 4.8% year-on-year increase in tenant satisfaction with communal area maintenance.

Tenancy Standard

2.29 The new Housing Allocation Policy introduced in December 2025 is now fully operational. Performance is being reviewed each month, and a full year of data (January to December 2026) will be used to understand the impact of the changes.

2.30 Tenancy sustainment remains a core priority, supported through readiness courses, affordability assessments and targeted support services. During 2025/26, over 1,400 tenants received support, with 81% of those at risk of eviction remaining in their homes six months later.

2.31 Financial inclusion services have secured over £3 million in additional income for tenants and residents in 2025/26, by supporting them to maximise their access to entitled benefits and other financial support, helping to strengthen financial resilience.

2.32 Evictions for rent arrears remain low, with 26 cases in 2025/26, reflecting the Council's proactive, holistic approach to tenancy support and early intervention.

Governance

2.33 The Regulator of Social Housing pursues a 'co-regulatory' approach, which means significant emphasis is placed on landlords having their own robust assurance mechanisms in place. The Housing Regulatory Assurance Board, chaired by the Chief Executive and attended by the Cabinet Member for

Housing, forms a key part of Rotherham's assurance model alongside the broader governance and assurance framework. Cabinet will also continue to receive updates on the TSMs and compliance with the standards.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 No other options were considered as this report is an update on the work being done to meet the consumer regulations introduced following the Social Housing (Regulations) Act in 2023.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Consultation on the work set out in this report was not necessary, as the Council, in its role as a social housing provider, is required to meet these standards. However, the report highlights a range of engagement activity already undertaken to ensure tenants can influence and shape service delivery. The new consumer standards further strengthen this expectation, requiring landlords to involve tenants in shaping changes to services, which will be a key focus of programmed inspections. Providing a range of meaningful opportunities for tenants to influence and scrutinise the landlord's strategies, policies and services is a requirement of the Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard. The improvement actions in section 2.26 provide an example of how targeted consultation with tenant groups has directly informed service development.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Cabinet is asked to note the report. The Service Director of Housing is accountable for implementing the actions in the report.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The activity detailed in this report will be funded via existing staffing resources and budgets. Additional budget has been set in place in 2026/27 to fund the activity required such as Stock Condition Surveys detailed at paragraph 2.16.

6.2 Where newly arising budget requirements are identified these will be managed via in-year monitoring and governance arrangements and considered during the next budget setting and Housing Revenue Account business planning process.

6.3 All activity where external suppliers are engaged to deliver the activity must be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (either the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023 dependent upon the route to market selected to procure) as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The Regulator of Social Housing publication 'Tenant Satisfaction Measures - Tenant survey requirements', provides the basis upon which providers of social

housing are required to conduct tenant perception surveys to generate a subset of Tenant Perception Measures. The Consumer Standards Code of Practice sets out the standards expected of social housing and how those standards should be maintained. The recommendations will help to ensure compliance with the new regulatory framework for social housing, and aid in preparations for an inspection of the Council's Housing Services.

7.2 Compliance with the consumer standards is mandatory. As a social landlord the Council has a duty to provide a safe environment for those living in Council homes. Failure to comply could result in negative outcomes ranging from customer dissatisfaction and criticism to a requirement to submit (to the Regulator) a Performance Improvement Plan, or to take particular remedial actions as set out in an enforcement notice. If necessary, the Regulator will be able to authorise an appropriate person to enter a social housing premises to take emergency remedial action, issue penalties such as unlimited fines, or require the provider of social housing to pay compensation. A provider of social housing will commit an offence if they obstruct access or work required to undertake remedial action. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults arising from the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The Government's Equality Impact assessment has been considered when reviewing the work being done to make sure the Council is compliant with the new regulations. As the Government's assessment states, equality considerations were taken into account throughout the development of the new consumer standards. The work being done by the Housing service puts all groups of tenants at the heart of what the Council does, understanding that there is a need to evidence that services are accessible to and offered in ways that meet the needs of those with protected characteristics.

10.2 The changes to the regulation of social housing are designed to improve services to tenants, the safety and quality of their homes and communal areas and give them access to information about how well their landlord is performing. In addition, it is a requirement of the regulations that tenants are involved in the shaping of changes to service delivery and revision of policies. The regulations are designed to improve equality of access to services for social housing tenants.

10.3 To ensure compliance with the new regulations, the Housing Service will report on the makeup of the tenant base in relation to protected characteristics and

act upon any issues identified. This will be part of the six-monthly updates to Cabinet on the social housing reforms.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 Given the Government's commitment for the UK to achieve net zero carbon by 2050 and the Council's target for Net Zero greenhouse gas emission in the Borough of Rotherham is 2040, 10 years sooner than the UK target, this will require substantial investment in the Council's housing stock over the life of the Business Plan. Initial estimates put the cost of this at circa £600m which represents a formidable challenge to the HRA. As a result, this means that drawing in external funding to progress net zero commitments becomes even more significant. Participation in national grant funding schemes will be prioritised.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 The report concerns the Council's functions as a landlord, but some of those functions are dependent on partners including contractors and other public sector agencies. The Strategic Housing Forum is the principal mechanism for bringing key housing partners together in Rotherham and the implications of regulation have been discussed there.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The key risk is a failure to work to strengthen compliance with the consumer standards, which could lead to negative outcomes for tenants and residents, a poor inspection outcome and potentially a negative judgement. The measures set out in this report are the mitigation against this risk.

14. Accountable Officers

14.1 Sarah Clyde, Service Director, Housing.

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	22/06/2026
Executive Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	11/06/2026
Service Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	03/06/2026

Report Author: Louise Robson,
Head of Housing Improvement and Governance
louise.robson@rotherham.gov.uk

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Appendix 1

Tenant Satisfaction Landlord and Perception Measures 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025/26

Tenant Satisfaction Measure - Landlord Measure		Rotherham 2023/24	National Results 2024/25		2024/25 Results	2025/26	Comparison 2024/25 vs 2025/26
RP01	Homes that do not meet the decent homes standard	12.0%	0.5%		7.2%	6.4%	+0.8% (improved)
RP02	(1) Non-Emergency Repairs completed within target timescale	97.0%	82.5%		96.7%	97.5%	+0.8% (improved)
	2) Emergency Repairs completed within target timescale	99.0%	94.9%		98.6%	98.6%	+0.0% (static)
BS01	Gas safety checks	99.9%	100%		100%	99.9%	-0.1% (declined)
BS02	Fire safety checks	100%	100%		100%	100%	=
BS03	Asbestos safety checks	100%	100%		100%	100%	=
BS04	Water safety checks	100%	100%		100%	100%	=
BS05	Lift Safety Checks	91.3%	100%		100%	100%	=
NM01	Anti-social behaviour cases relative to the size of the landlord	69.6	36		70.4	69.8	Reduction of 0.6
	Number of anti-social behaviour cases that involve hate incidents opened (per 1,000 homes)	0.3	0.7		0.4	0.3	Reduction of 0.1
CH01	Stage One complaints relative to the size of the landlord (per 1,000 homes	26.9	53.5		17.7	23.1	Increase of 5.4
	Stage Two complaints relative to the size of the landlord (per 1,000 homes)	0.9	8.3		0.8	1.8	Increase of 1.0
CH02	% Stage One complaints responded to within Complaint Handling Code timescale	82.3%	89.9%		78.1%	84.7%	+6.6 (improved)
	% Stage Two complaints responded to within Complaint Handling Code timescales	55.5%	88.9%		37.5%	22.9%	-14.6 (declined)

Summary of tenant perception survey results:

Measure	RMBC Results (2024/25)	RMBC Results 2025/26*	Diff to 2024/25	Diff to 2023/24	RSH Median 2024/25	RSH Upper Quartile 2024/25
TP01 - Overall satisfaction.	78.2%	77.6%	**-0.6%**	**+0.7%**	71.8%	**78.9% Target**
TP02 - Satisfaction with repairs.	78.6%	78.7%	**+0.1%**	**+4.6%**	73.6%	**79.6% Target**
TP03 - Satisfaction with time taken to complete most recent repair.	77.6%	78.1%	**+0.5%**	**+6.0%**	69.5%	**76.5% Target**
TP04 - Satisfaction that the home is well maintained.	77.7%	77.4%	**-0.3%**	**-0.2%**	71.9%	**77.8% Target**
TP05 - Satisfaction that the home is safe.	81.0%	81.8%	**+0.8%**	**+0.7%**	77.6%	**82.9% Target**
TP06 - Satisfaction that the landlord listens to tenant views and acts upon them.	71.5%	69.7%	**-1.8%**	**-0.8%**	61.6%	**69.3% Target**

Measure	RMBC Results (2024/25)	RMBC Results 2025/26*	Diff to 2024/25	Diff to 2023/24	RSH Median 2024/25	RSH Upper Quartile 2024/25
TP07 - Satisfaction that the landlord keeps tenants informed about things that matter to them.	76.8%	76.4%	**-0.4%**	**+2.4%**	72.0%	**77.3% Target**
TP08 - Agreement that the landlord treats tenants fairly and with respect.	83.0%	83.1%	**+0.1%**	**-0.5%**	77.9%	**83.9% Target**

TP09 - Satisfaction with the landlord's approach to handling complaints.	34.5%	34.5%	**0.0%**	**-1.7%**	**35.5% Target**	42.1%
TP10 - Satisfaction that the landlord keeps communal areas clean and well maintained.	68.1%	72.9%	**+4.8%**	**+1.3%**	66.7%	**72.8% Target**
TP11 - Satisfaction that the landlord makes a positive contribution to neighbourhoods.	71.2%	71.7%	**+0.5%**	**-0.7%**	64.6%	**71.7% Target**
TP12 - Satisfaction with the landlord's approach to handling anti-social behaviour.	63.3%	61.6%	**-1.7%**	**-3.3%**	59.5%	**66.4% Target**

Tenant Satisfaction Perception Measures

TP01. Proportion of respondents who report they are satisfied with the overall service of their landlord.

Rotherham Council					National Results (2024/25)		
	Satisfied	**Neither**	**Dissatisfied**		**Median**	**Lower Quartile**	**Upper Quartile**
2023/24	76.9%	10.5%	12.6%		71.8%	64.7%	78.9%
2024/25	78.2%	10.1%	11.7%				
2025/26	77.6%	9.6%	12.8%				

TP02. Proportion of respondents who have received a repair in the last 12 months who report that they are satisfied with the overall repairs service.

Rotherham Council					National Results (2024/25)		
	Satisfied	**Neither**	**Dissatisfied**		**Median**	**Lower Quartile**	**Upper Quartile**
2023/24	74.1%	7.9%	18.0%		73.6%	66.8%	79.6%
2024/25	78.6%	6.7%	14.7%				
2025/26	78.7%	7.3%	14.0%				

TP03. Proportion of respondents who have received a repair in the last 12 months who report that they are satisfied with the time taken to complete their most recent repair.

Rotherham Council					National Results (2024/25)		
	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied		Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2023/24	72.1%	4.4%	23.5%		69.5%	63.0%	76.5%
2024/25	77.6%	4.6%	17.8%				
2025/26	78.1%	4.8%	17.1%				

TP04. Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their home is well maintained.

Rotherham Council					National Results (2024/25)		
	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied		Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2023/24	77.6%	7.0%	15.4%		71.9%	65.5%	77.8%
2024/25	77.7%	7.6%	14.7%				
2025/26	77.4%	7.8%	14.8%				

TP05. Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their home is safe.

Rotherham Council					National Results (2024/25)		
	Satisfied -	Neither	Dissatisfied		Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2023/24	81.1%	5.8%	13.1%		77.6%	71.8%	82.9%
2024/25	81.0%	6.6%	12.4%				
2025/26	81.8%	6.3%	11.9%				

TP06. Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their landlord listens to tenant views and acts upon them.

Rotherham Council					National Results (2024/25)		
	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied		Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2023/24	70.5%	10.5%	19.0%		61.6%	54.1%	69.3%
2024/25	71.5%	10.1%	18.4%				
2025/26	69.7%	10.8%	19.4%				

TP07. Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their landlord keeps them informed about things that matter to them.

Rotherham Council					National Results (2024/25)		
	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied		Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2023/24	74.0%	10.5%	15.4%		72.0%	65.9%	77.3%
2024/25	76.8%	9.2%	14.0%				
2025/26	76.4%	9.7%	13.9%				

TP08. Proportion of respondents who report that they agree their landlord treats them fairly and with respect.

Rotherham Council					National Results (2024/25)		
	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied		Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2023/24	83.6%	8.2%	8.2%		77.9%	72.6%	83.9%
2024/25	83.0%	9.9%	7.1%				
2025/26	83.1%	9.7%	7.2%				

TP09. Proportion of respondents who report making a complaint in the last 12 months who are satisfied with their landlord's approach to complaints handling.

Rotherham Council					National Results (2024/25)		
	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied		Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2023/24	36.2%	7.6%	56.2%		35.5%	29.6%	42.1%
2024/25	34.5%	7.0%	58.4%				
2025/26	34.5%	8.2%	57.2%				

TP10. Proportion of respondents with communal areas who report that they are satisfied that their landlord keeps communal areas clean and well maintained.

Rotherham Council					National Results (2024/25)		
	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied		Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2023/24	71.6%	7.4%	20.9%		66.7%	60.7%	72.8%
2024/25	68.1%	6.6%	25.3%				
2025/26	72.9%	6.2%	20.8%				

TP11. Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their landlord makes a positive contribution to the neighbourhood

Rotherham Council					National Results (2024/25)		
	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied		Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2023/24	72.4%	9.9%	17.7%		64.6%	57.7%	71.7%
2024/25	71.2%	10.9%	17.9%				
2025/26	71.7%	10.7%	17.6%				

TP12. Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied with their landlord's approach to handling anti-social behaviour.

Rotherham Council					National Results (2024/25)		
	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied		Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2023/24	64.9%	11.8%	23.3%		59.5%	54.7%	66.4%
2024/25	63.3%	11.7%	25.0%				
2025/26	61.6%	12.4%	26.0%				

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Appendix 2

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Tenant Satisfaction Measures and Regulatory Compliance Update	
Directorate: Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	**Service area:** **Housing Improvement and Governance**
Lead person: Louise Robson	**Contact:** louise.robson@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☒ **Other** **If other, please specify** Update to Cabinet on Tenant Satisfaction Measures and Regulatory Compliance	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
The Social Housing (Regulation) Act regulations came into force on April 1st, 2024. The new regulations and inspection regime require social housing landlords to deliver in line with the four consumer standards relating to Quality and Safety, Transparency Influence and Accountability, Neighbourhood and Community, and Tenancy. Social housing is governed by a range of legislation and these new consumer standards build upon the existing legislative requirements. This report is an update on the work taking place across Housing to make sure we meet the regulations. The new regulations require social housing providers to report a range

Appendix 2

of performance measures on an annual basis. This report provides Cabinet with an update on the ongoing work to ensure Housing services comply with the revised regulatory framework, including the new consumer standards, and presents the latest Tenant Satisfaction Measures results for noting.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

The consumer standards are focussed on the quality of delivery for tenants and there is an expectation that landlords will know their tenants and will adapt delivery to meet particular needs, including in response to those with protected characteristics. In effect, being inclusive and respecting and responding to diversity and aiming for equality of access are core tenets of the new regulations. The new regulatory framework for social housing will include inspections so landlords will be judged on how well they are meeting these requirements.

The consumer standards that came into force from April 1st, 2024, had a period of public consultation before being finalised. The final Equality Impact Assessment was published alongside the finalised consumer standards on February 29th, 2024, and can be found at:

Annex 6: Consumer standards – Equality impact assessment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		√
Could the proposal affect service users?		√
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		√
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		√
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		√
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		√

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

Given that this is a six-monthly update to Cabinet, it has been determined that there is no equality implications from this report.

The Government's Equality Impact Assessment has been considered when reviewing the Tenant Satisfaction Measures to make sure we are compliant with the new regulations. As the government's assessment states, equality considerations were taken into account throughout the development of the new consumer standards. The work being done by the Housing service puts all groups of tenants at the heart of what we do but

Appendix 2

understanding that we need to evidence that services are accessible to and offered in ways that meet the needs of those with protected characteristics. This 6-monthly update is intended to provide cabinet with the latest position on the Tenant Satisfaction Measures and outline the steps being taken to improve any measures that are on a downward trend.

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6.**
If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4.**

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity
If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.** Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation. Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).
• **How have you considered equality and diversity?** N/A
• **Key findings** N/A
• **Actions** N/A

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	N/A

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Louise Robson	Head of Housing Improvement and Governance	21/04/2026

Appendix 2

6. Publishing	
This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee, or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date screening completed	21/04/2026
Report title and date	Tenant Satisfaction Measures 2025/26 and Social Housing Consumer Standards (six-monthly update)
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	N/A
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	21/04/2026

APPENDIX 3 – CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across Rotherham as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	n/a				
Emissions from transport?	n/a				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	n/a				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Unknown impact on emissions		A revised *Safety and Quality Standard* emphasises that landlords should hold good quality information about their properties' condition, based on recent stock condition surveys. Strengthening assurance around stock condition and decency are key priorities for the Council, due to the age of its existing stock condition data. In the longer term, better intelligence will increase the Council's capacity to improve the condition of its housing stock e.g., by insulating homes		Greenhouse gas emissions from housing, including those from Council-owned homes, are outside the scope of the Council's 'Net Zero by 2030' (NZ30) target and are outside the scope of NZ30 emissions monitoring. Local area emissions from domestic energy use are estimated in local authority greenhouse gas emissions statistics, published by the

			to higher energy efficiency standards. In this way, work to comply with consumer standards for social housing landlords may increase the Council's capacity to cut greenhouse gas emissions from domestic energy use in the Borough of Rotherham, as per its 'Net Zero by 2040' target.		Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. A specific expectation that the Council should hold good quality data about properties it owns may increase organisational capacity for monitoring local area emissions.
Emissions from construction and/or development?	n/a				
Carbon capture (e.g., through trees)?	n/a				

Identify any emission impacts associated with this decision that have not been covered by the above fields:

Under a further *Neighbourhood and Community Standard*, the Council must "co-operate with relevant partners to promote social, **environmental** [*emphasis added*], and economic wellbeing in the areas where they provide social housing." Meeting this standard may have wider environmental benefits for biodiversity and nature recovery, sequestering carbon and adapting to climate change e.g., if it leads to more green space in areas where the Council provides social housing.

Please provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

Much of the content of the new consumer standards is already part of the regulatory framework for social housing: for these areas, the key difference is the requirement for the Council to evidence compliance to a proactive Regulator. This may have real-world, positive consequences for Council-owned homes. For example, the Council needs to improve its stock condition data, to comply with a revised *Safety and Quality Standard*. Better quality stock condition data may increase the Council's capacity to retrofit homes with better insulation and low carbon heating systems and hence cut greenhouse gas emissions, to meet its 'Net Zero by 2040' climate change target.

Supporting information:	
Completed by: (Name, title, and service area/directorate).	Robeen Abou El Ola Business Development Manager Housing Services Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
Please outline any research, data, or information used to complete this [form].	*Required Outcomes and Specific Expectations, Consumer Standards*. Regulator of Social Housing (2 April 2024). Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/regulatory-standards-for-landlords>
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Tracking [to be completed by Policy Support / Climate Champions]	Tracking Reference: CIA372 Katie Rockett, Climate Change Officer

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Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title
Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report
Chris Paddock, Interim Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement

Report Author(s)
Katie Stead, Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager
Katie.stead@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary

In May 2025, the Council adopted a new Council Plan for 2025-30. The Plan was informed by public consultation and set out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities.

To enable the Council to work towards the Council Plan outcomes and achieve its priorities, a Year Ahead Delivery Plan was developed, which set out the key activities to be delivered over the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

The Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2025-26 (and the associated Council Plan performance measures) was approved by Cabinet on 19 May 2025. In line with the previous Council Plan, it was agreed that there would be two monitoring reports published over the year.

Cabinet received the first progress update on 19 January 2026. The second progress report for 2025-26 is attached at Appendix 1. It includes progress on Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions up to 15 June 2026, performance measures at Quarter 4 (January to March 2026), and the year-end overview of the long-term measures of success.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Note the overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities.

2. Note the Quarter 4 data for the Council Plan performance measures.

3. Note the updates on the Council Plan long term measures of success.

4. Note that future progress reports will be presented to Cabinet in January and July 2027.

List of Appendices Included
Appendix 1 – Council Plan Progress Report – Year End Report for 2025/26 (Quarter 4 performance data and progress on Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2025/26).
Appendix 2 – Summary Council Plan Progress Report – Year End Report for 2025/26 (Quarter 4 performance data and progress on Year Ahead Delivery Plan 2025/26).
Appendix 3 – Equality Analysis.
Appendix 4 – Climate Impact Assessment.

Background Papers

Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update considered by Cabinet on 19 January 2026.

Year-End Report on Council Plan 2022-25 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress for 2024-2025 considered by Cabinet on 7 July 2025.

Council Plan 2025-30 and Year Ahead Delivery Plan approved by Full Council on 19 May 2025.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
None

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update

1. Background

1.1 The Council Plan 2025-30 is a key document, which sets out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. The Plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, and ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery.

1.2 To enable the Council to work towards the Council Plan outcomes and achieve the commitments, a Year Ahead Delivery Plan is produced annually which sets out the key activities to be delivered and associated performance metrics. The Plan also includes a suite of long-term measures of success which are reported at year end.

1.3 The Council Plan 2025-30 was adopted by Council in May 2025. The Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2025/26 is the first of the new Council Plan and was approved by Cabinet on 19 May 2025.

1.4 The process for monitoring performance is set out in the Council's Performance Management Framework, which explains how robust performance monitoring should be carried out. This Framework is currently being reviewed to ensure it aligns with the Council Plan 2025-30.

1.5 To ensure that the delivery of actions and their impact is assessed, formal performance reports will be presented at Cabinet meetings twice a year, as agreed. The Council's scrutiny process can consider the reports in line with the Council's normal processes, consistent with previous performance reports.

1.6 Service plans have been produced for Council services, and these are reviewed annually to ensure a 'golden thread' runs from the Council Plan through to each service as well as the 'My Year Ahead Delivery Plan' Personal Development Review (PDR) process at individual officer level.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Informed by a programme of public and stakeholder engagement, the Council Plan sets out medium-term priorities and actions to make improvements for local people and places. The Plan is framed around the following five outcomes:

- Places are thriving, safe, and clean
- An economy that works for everyone
- Children and young people achieve
- Residents live well
- One Council that listens and learns

2.2 The Council Plan identified 17 priorities to be delivered across the 5 strategic outcomes, including defined differences that will be seen between 2025 and 2030. The Plan also included a suite of 30 long-term measures of success to be reported annually in the year-end progress report. The 2025-26 Year Ahead

Delivery Plan includes 116 priority actions, 27 of which are performance measures, alongside a further 12 social care measures.

2.3 The year-end progress report for 2025/26 (Appendix 1) focuses on the progress made across all Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities to deliver the Council Plan's five strategic outcomes for Rotherham. The report has been designed to ensure that progress on the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities is as up to date as possible at the time of publication.

2.4 The targets for Council Plan performance measures relate to the financial year 2025/26 and are reported here for Quarter 4 (January to March 2026). Data on the long-term measures of success is provided, where available. Appendix 1 includes full details of performance against these measures.

2.5 The year-end progress report (Appendix 1) includes a high-level overview and is then presented by Council Plan outcome, with each thematic section including: achievements and challenges, Year Ahead Delivery Plan trackers, performance scorecards and updates on the associated long-term measures of success. The report also includes wider information, key facts and intelligence, specific case studies and a timeline of key achievements / activities, summarising activity during the second half of the year.

2.6 Consistent with the mid-year progress report provided in January, an additional appendix (Appendix 2) has been prepared to provide a summary of the Council Plan progress report. This is in line with a recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board during its consideration of the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Report in July 2025.

2.7 The Year Ahead Delivery Plan milestone trackers (included in Appendix 1) outline progress against the 89 actions within the Year Ahead Plan. Each action has been rated as follows:

Status	Definition
Complete	The action is fully complete and/or operational.
Known delays	Action has some risk/delay to delivery or is behind the original schedule by less than three months.
Will not be met	Action will not be/has not been met within three months of the original target date.

2.8 As of 15 June 2026, the activities within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan are rated as follows:

- 82% (73) complete
- 2% (2) are delayed by less than 3 months
- 16% (14) will not be met within 3 months of original target date.

2.9 The Year Ahead Delivery Plan also includes a performance tracker (included in Appendix 1), which provides an analysis of the Council's performance against the 27 performance measures and 12 social care measures.

Each of the measures are rated as follows:

Status	Definition
	Measure cannot be assessed this quarter (i.e. annual measure or awaiting publication of data). This will be shown as status N/A when reporting the performance measure status.
	Performance has achieved year-end target.
	Performance is on or above target (social care measures only).
	Performance is not currently on target. High risk that year-end target will not be achieved.
No target.	Information measure targets not applicable (i.e. volume/demand measures where 'good' is neither high or low)

2.10 For the report covering Quarter 4, the status of the performance measures is set out below:

Progress against targets

- Performance has met target – 22 measures (81%)
- Performance has not met target – 5 measures (19%)

2.11 For the report covering Quarter 4, the status of the 12 social care measures is set out below:

Progress against targets

- Performance is on or above target – 7 measures (58%)
- Target cannot be assessed this quarter (i.e. Annual measure or awaiting publication of data) – 2 measures (17%)
- Information measure targets not applicable (i.e. Volume/Demand measures where 'good' is neither high or low) – 3 measures (25%)

2.12 For the report covering Quarter 4, the status of the long-term measures of success is set out below:

Progress against baseline 2024/25

- 22 measures have improved since the baseline (58%)
- 10 measures have not improved since the baseline (26%)
- 6 measures are N/A - do not have data for current reporting period (16%)

2.13 To ensure that the Council Plan continues to be managed effectively, six-monthly progress reports will be produced for Cabinet and made publicly available. The reports will include progress in relation to the actions in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan, performance data relating to associated performance measures and case studies. The year end progress report will also incorporate the annual update on

the long-term measures of success. Consistent with the approach used in 2025/26, it is proposed that the 2026/27 mid-year progress report, covering the period April 2026 to September 2026, is reported to Cabinet in January 2027.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The Council Plan 2025-30 was developed in consultation with Cabinet Members and officers across all directorates, as well as being informed by public consultation. This report forms part of the Council's commitment to reporting publicly on its progress.

3.2 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the overall position in relation to the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities for 2025-26, performance measures to 31 March 2026 and the long-term measures of success. It is also recommended that Cabinet receives future progress updates in January and July 2027.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 A programme of public consultation and engagement to support the development of the Council Plan 2025-2030 took place between September and November 2024. This included online and postal surveys, focus groups (internal and external), and a series of short interactions and engagement activity at a number of locations across the borough. There were 214 online and postal surveys returned and over 1,960 interactions in total across all methods of engagement.

4.2 The consultation and engagement activity included speaking with voluntary and community groups, which represent protected characteristic groups, as well as attendance at the Parish Council Network, direct engagement with the public and a session open to all elected members.

4.3 The consultation is part of an ongoing dialogue between the Council and members of the public. Feedback continues to be sought on core documents such as the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities, Rotherham Together Partnership Plan and the Inclusion Strategy.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 This progress report follows the previous report brought to Cabinet in January 2026; together they cover the performance over the whole of the 2025-26 financial year.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 The Council Plan and the Year Ahead Delivery Plan are designed to help steer the use of Council finances, balanced against the wider funding backdrop for the Council and the broader context of national local government finance and policy. There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report and the delivery of the Council Plan will be managed within the Council's available budgets.

6.2 The Council operates in a constantly changing environment. It will be important to ensure that ambitions and performance targets remain realistic in the context of central government policy, forthcoming legislation and the financial position of the Council.

6.3 Whilst there are no direct procurement implications in this report, the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan include some activities which require the need to procure goods, services or works to achieve their outcomes. All projects will need to be procured in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the Procurement Act 2023, or the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023, whichever is applicable as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. Through this process, clear consideration and application of social value in accordance with the Council's Social Value Policy, the Real Living Wage and other ethical factors will also be required.

6.4 Appendix 1 includes information regarding the Council's financial position, and this is aligned to the financial reporting timelines.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Whilst there is no specific statutory requirement for the Council to have a Performance Management Framework and Council Plan, being clear about the Council's ambitions gives staff, partners, residents, and central Government a clear understanding of what it seeks to achieve and how it will prioritise its spending decisions.

7.2 As this is a progress report there are no specific legal implications arising from this report. However, an effective and embedded Council Plan is a key part of the Council's commitment to ongoing improvement and this requires effective monitoring as to progress.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct human resource (HR) implications arising specifically from this report. However, successful delivery of the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan is dependent on maintaining a workforce with the appropriate capacity, skills and capability to deliver the Council's priorities. The Council Plan's focus on being 'One Council that listens and learns' highlights the importance of an engaged, diverse and high-performing workforce, supported through effective workforce planning and the embedding of modern, flexible ways of working.

8.2 Delivery of the Plan will be underpinned by the Council's Workforce Plan, with HR and organisational development (OD) playing a key role in supporting recruitment, retention, skills and leadership development, and addressing workforce pressures in key service areas. HR and OD will also support organisational resilience through employee engagement, wellbeing and equality, diversity and inclusion activity, ensuring the Council is well positioned to adapt to future challenges and deliver its strategic objectives.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The Council Plan has a core focus on the needs of children and young people and vulnerable adults, and this is embedded throughout all outcomes of the plan, particularly ‘children and young people achieve’ and ‘residents live well’.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Equalities is cross cutting throughout the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan.

10.2 Three cross cutting policy drivers run throughout the plan. One of these includes ‘opportunities are expanded to all’ to ensure that the Council creates new opportunities, with help targeted to those who need it the most, so no one is left behind. All outcomes aim to meet residents’ and communities’ differentiated needs.

10.3 In addition, the ‘One Council that listens and learns’ outcome includes ‘better customer experience’ which ensures different needs are met. The Council’s commitment to place all customers at the heart of service delivery includes a clear commitment to working with local communities.

10.4 A detailed Equality Analysis is attached at Appendix 3.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The ‘One Council that listens and learns’ outcome has a focus on reducing harmful levels of carbon emissions to limit the impacts on the climate and the environment. Actions within this outcome encompass plans for the reduction of emissions. The ‘places are thriving, safe and clean’ outcome also includes actions focussed on flood alleviation projects and flood resilience measures for communities in the worst-affected areas of the borough.

11.2 Given that this is a progress report, and implies no direct recommendations or decisions, there are no relevant direct emission impacts to consider. Where progress on certain actions has implied a specific definable impact on emissions, this has been included indicatively and an overall likely impact provided. The majority of larger schemes will have had separate climate impact assessments undertaken as part of their approval process.

11.3 A Climate Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 4.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Working with partners across the public, private and voluntary and community sectors will be integral to the delivery of the Council Plan, and partners have been consulted as part of its development. All the outcomes will require multi-agency approaches to some degree and the Council will continue to show effective leadership, operating through a range of strategic partnership bodies.

12.2 The Rotherham Together Partnership's Rotherham Plan 2026-2036 was endorsed by Cabinet on 11 May 2026 and serves as the new overarching partnership plan for the borough. The Rotherham Plan has been designed in a manner that aligns with and complements the Council Plan, setting out partners' joint ambitions to improve outcomes for local people. In June 2026, the plan was launched at a Partnership showcase event at Magna Science and Adventure Centre, which saw around 150 partners and guests in attendance.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The Corporate Strategic Risk Register is aligned to the new Council Plan outcomes and the process of updating and identifying strategic risks is designed to manage risks connected to the plan.

13.2 Progress reports will continue to note risks associated with actions at risk of not being delivered, or those that have missed the deadline, as well as performance measures which have not progressed in accordance with the target set.

13.3 Directorates are also responsible for ensuring that any significant risks are addressed via directorate risk registers and the Corporate Strategic Risk Register.

14. Accountable Officers

Fiona Boden, Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Policy, Strategy and Engagement Directorate
Fiona.boden@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	19/6/26
Executive Director, Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	18/06/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/06/26

Report Authors:

Katie Stead, Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager
Katie.stead@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

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Appendix 1

COUNCIL PLAN 2025/30 AND YEAR AHEAD DELIVERY PLAN

Year-End Progress Report

Period: Quarter 4 2025-26 performance data and progress on the Year Ahead Delivery Plan

www.rotherham.gov.uk

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

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1. Introduction

The Council Plan is a key document which sets out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. The Plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, and ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery.

Three cross-cutting policy drivers run through the plan, informing the Council's way of working and helping to achieve better outcomes:

Expanding opportunities for all

We will target the most help at those who need it, as we open up new oportuntities, so no one is left behind.

Recognising and building on our strengths to make positive change

We will harness the knowledge and skills of community groups and local residents and make the best use of local assets, including buildings, parks and public spaces.

Focussing on prevention

We will focus on reducing the risk of problems arising in the first place, and when they do, we will intervene early to prevent them from worsening.

Informed by a programme of public and stakeholder engagement, the Council Plan is framed around five strategic outcomes:

To ensure delivery of the Council Plan, annual Year Ahead Delivery Plans are produced. The Year Ahead Delivery Plan for the 2025/26 financial year covers the first year of the Council Plan 2025-30.

This is the year-end progress report for 2025/26. The report focuses on progress made in delivering the 89 priority actions and meeting the 27 performance measures contained within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan that best demonstrate progress in achieving the five strategic outcomes

within the Council Plan. It brings together wider information, key facts and intelligence to explain how the Council is working and performing, including timelines and case studies to demonstrate the impact on residents and communities. The report has been designed to ensure that progress on the Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions is as up to date as possible at the time of publication, whilst performance measures information relates to Quarter 4 (January to March 2026),

This year-end report also incorporates measures relating to the Council's long-term success. These indicators will be tracked annually over the five-year duration of the Council Plan and provide a broader view of progress beyond short-term performance cycles. Long-term measures are important as they help to demonstrate the impact of policies and interventions and ensure that the Council remains focused on outcomes that improve the quality of life for residents in a sustainable and meaningful way.

2. Status definitions

Year Ahead Delivery Plan definitions for actions at year end

Status	Definition
Known delays	Action has some risk/delay to delivery or is behind the original schedule by less than three months
Will not be met	Action will not be/has not been met within three months of the original target date
Complete	The action is fully complete and/or operational

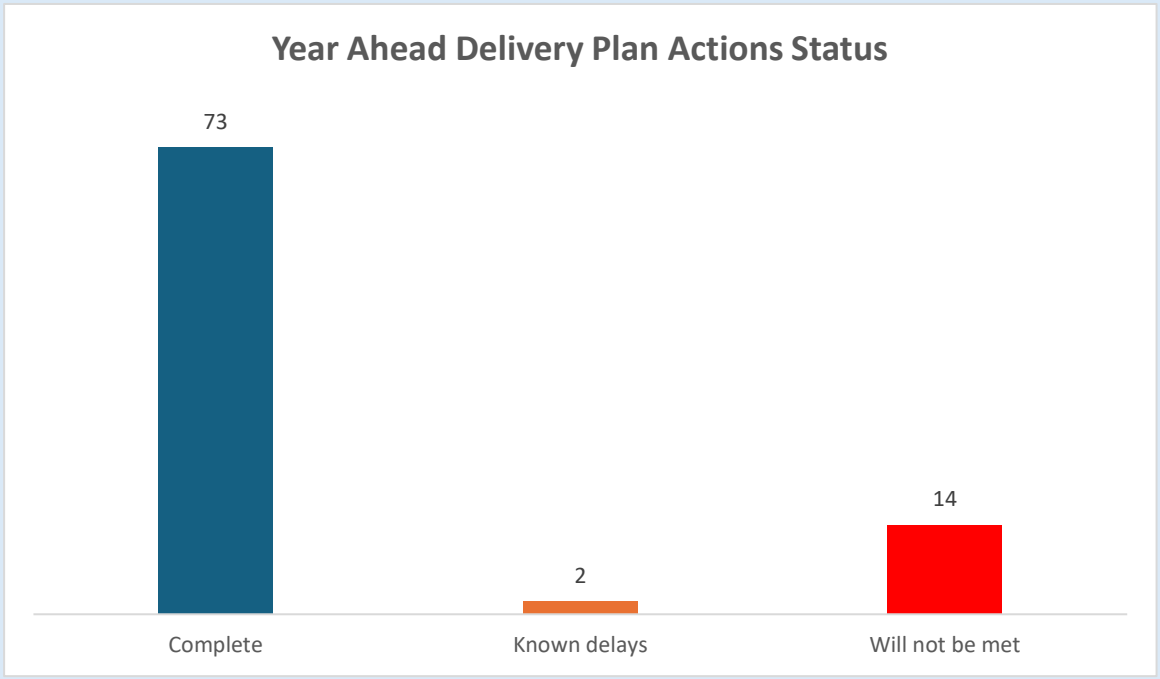
Year Ahead Delivery Plan definitions for performance measures at year end

Status	Definition
	Measure cannot be assessed this quarter (i.e. annual measure or awaiting publication of data). This will be shown as status N/A when reporting the performance measure status.
	Performance is on or above target (social care measures only).
	Performance has achieved year-end target.
	Performance is not currently on target. The year-end target has not been achieved.
No target.	Information measure targets not applicable (i.e. volume/demand measures where 'good' is neither high or low)

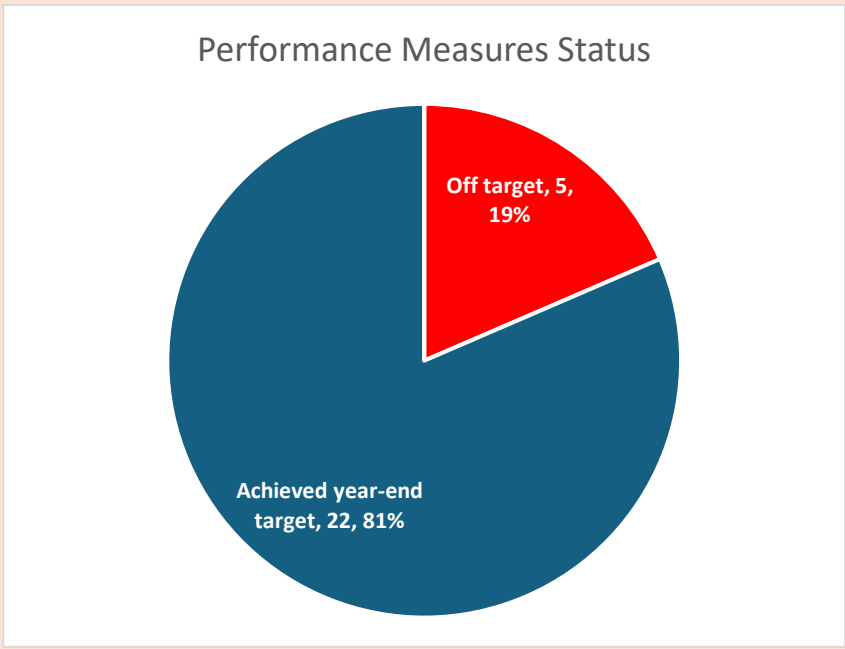
3. Overview of performance and progress

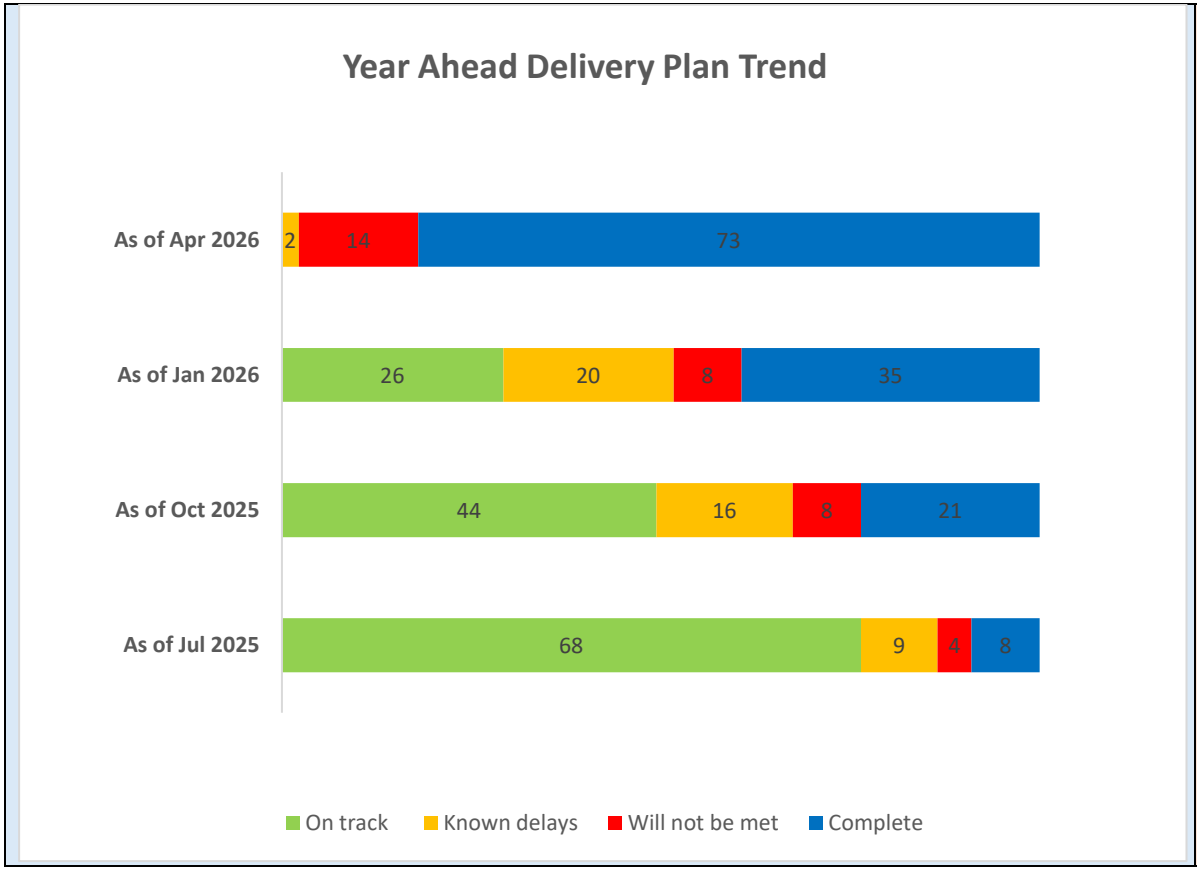
The diagrams below provide details of the overall status in relation to the Council Plan performance measures (where data is available or where targets have been set) and Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions/milestones.

Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions/milestones



Performance Measures




Year Ahead Delivery Plan Trend
As of Apr 2026
2
14
73
As of Jan 2026
26
20
8
35
As of Oct 2025
44
16
8
21
As of Jul 2025
68
9
4
8
On track
Known delays
Will not be met
Complete

4. Finance update

The table below provides details on some of the key areas of the Council's budget 2025/26, indicating how the Council spent its budget against its five priority outcomes.

Themes	Commentary on financial performance of key areas of the budget
Places are thriving, safe and clean	In October, war memorial and civic centre improvements were approved to progress to design stage under the £4million Our Places Fund investment. Work is underway on regeneration projects in Wath and Dinnington.
	Works are complete at the newly opened café at Rother Valley Country Park.
	Revenue investments have created new Street Safe and Road Cleansing and Fly Tipping teams.
An economy that works for everyone	Capital investments have led to a series of improvements in our business centres.
	In the summer, Cabinet endorsed the submission of the Gateway station masterplan and funding was allocated to initiate property negotiations.
	Employment solutions service has helped people into work.
Children and young people achieve	A baby pack has been delivered to every family that wants one to provide support to children at the start of their lives.
	Clifton Park watersplash opened in the summer and the Children's Capital of Culture has delivered an array of activities throughout the year culminating in the Birthday Party.
Residents live well	The Energy Crisis Support scheme has been extended using the Household Support Fund, providing a cash grant of up to £250 per household.
	There have been 114 additional Council homes delivered.
	Additional temporary homes have been used to reduce the need for emergency hotel accommodation to combat homelessness.
One Council	The Council receives in excess of 300,000 calls a year into its main contact centre. Work continues at pace to reduce call waiting times and to improve and modernise the way that members of the public can contact the Council to provide better value for money and enhance the customer experience.

2025/26 Revenue Budget Investments Tracking

The table below provides a progress update on the 2025/26 revenue budget investments approved via Council in March 2025, as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26. Whilst these are in the main permanent investments, it is vital that the Council can demonstrate progress on these member priorities.

Investment Reference	Revenue Budget Investment	2025/26 Investment £'000	Expenditure to date £'000	% Spent To Date	Current Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000	Update Commentary
Places are thriving, safe and clean							
25/26 INV1	Street Safe Team	570	225	39%	225	-345	Underspend is due to delayed recruitment. New approved band L started in September 2025. The band J post was filled in November 2025. From the 10 new Enforcement Officer posts, 6 started in November 2025, 3 in January 2026 and 1 post remains vacant. Officers have been appointed on Band F not Band G as anticipated.
25/26 INV3	Road Marking	100	97	97%	97	-3	Scheduled works completed at 16 locations.
25/26 INV4	Street Cleansing & Fly Tipping improvements	307	137	45%	137	-170	Underspend is mainly due to delayed recruitment; 4 x Band D posts recruited July. Band J posts not filled in the current financial year.

An economy that works for everyone							
25/26 INV2	Employment Solutions Team	718	648	90%	649	-69	Underspend is due to delayed recruitment and actual salaries lower than budgeted.
Residents live well							
25/26 INV5	Cost of Living Support	188	188	100%	188	0	A range of support services for residents - £65k for school uniform vouchers, £92k for pension credit advisor extension (via Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)), £30k for Foodworks VCS support. Delivered in full.
One Council that listens and learns							
25/26 INV6	Customer Services Call Handlers	62	37	60%	48	-14	This investment increased call handler capacity over peak periods of call demand, to reduce the amount of time customers were waiting and provide a better experience. 2 x Band D officers were in post from 7 July 2025.
Total Investment Proposals		**1,945**	**1,332**	**68%**	**1,344**	**-601**	

5. TIMELINE OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Places are thriving, safe and clean	An economy that works for everyone	Children and young people achieve	Residents live well	One Council that listens and learns

2025-26

OCT

- The Rotherham Together Partnership Stakeholder event was held at Skills Street, Gulliver's Valley Resort.
- The Selective Licensing 2026-2031 report was approved by Cabinet.
- Established the Rural Verge and Gateway Team, who have successfully cleared 161 sites, collecting 3,442 bags of waste.

NOV

- Council agreed the new Community Safety Strategy, focused on enhancing public safety, protecting vulnerable individuals and reducing anti-social behaviour and crime across the borough.
- Rotherham Town Centre Christmas Light Switch on provided an evening of entertainment for families.
- Heavenly Desserts opened at Forge Island.
- A member's session was held to embed a strengths-based working approach across the Council, with 11 elected members in attendance.
- The 'Regeneration Plan' was approved at Cabinet and submitted to Government.

DEC

- The Housing Allocations Policy went live, setting out how the Council will help those who need housing the most find suitable homes and how properties are let in a fair way.information, advice, and raise awareness.
- The Employment and Skills Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet; delivery is overseen by the Employment and Skills Board of the Rotherham Together Partnership.
- The Council's Children and Young People's Services were rated 'Outstanding' overall following Ofsted's most recent inspection. from 2-8 June.
- Launched the Street Safe Team, providing a visible presence of uniformed staff in the town centre, Dinnington, Wath, Maltby and Swinton.
- Cabinet approved the inclusion of Rotherham within the SYMCA Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funded programme.

JAN

- The Department for Transport approved funding for the Rotherham Gateway (Mainline Station) to progress to a Full Business Case.
- Minor works started on the first phase of a Health Hub in the town centre.
- Holocaust Memorial Day took place at Clifton Park.

FEB

- Snail Yard pocket park in the town centre opened to the public.
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Hub, based at the Eric Manns building and ran by Rotherham Parents Forum Limited opened.
- Opened the Lakeside Café at Thrybergh Country Park after its revamp.
- The Selective Licensing scheme commenced.
- The demolition of Wath library began.
- The Inclusion Strategy was agreed by Cabinet, which outlines the Council's vision to create an inclusive borough where opportunity is extended to everyone.
- Dinnington regeneration work began, starting with the demolition of burnt-out buildings on Dinnington High Street.

MAR

- Launch of the Don Valley Corridor (DVC) Investment Zone, alongside Sheffield City Council and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.
- The Council's Adult Social Care Service was rated as 'good' following an assessment by the Care Quality Commission – the joint-second top scoring authority in Yorkshire and the Humber.
- Submitted a bid to The Cruff Foundation for a multi-use games area by Kimberworth Park Partnership.
- The Birthday Party was held in the town centre to mark the closing celebrations of the Children's Capital of Culture year. 8,300 people were in attendance.
- Roots, the Rotherham Street Carnival was held in the town centre with lots of children and families in attendance.
- A programme of events was held to celebrate International Women's Day 2026, focused on topics such as women's health in the workplace and male allyship.
- Work started at Swinton, as part of the Our Places Fund.

APR

- Cabinet approved the new Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2026/27.
- St George's Day event was held at Clifton Park, with over 2,500 people in attendance.
- Completed improvement works at the play area at Thrybergh Country Park.
- Launched the Council's new consultation software, Citizens Space.
- Cabinet endorsed the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026/27-2028/29.
- The new Waterfront Café and events space at Rother Valley Country Park opened
- The new tram-train stop at Magna opened to the public.
- Completed 800th new Council home on 30 April (out of target of 1000 between 2018 and 2027)

MAY

- Consultation on draft designs for City Regional Sustainable Settlement active travel and bus priority on Fitzwilliam Road and Broom Road commenced.
- Completed improvement works at Rosehill Park Play Area.
- Castle View Day Service was formally handover over to Adult Social Care.

JUN

- Construction of the Templeborough Business Zone Project began.
- Castle View Day Centre opened.
- The Rotherham Together Partnership showcase event was held at Magna to launch the new Rotherham Plan 2026-2036.

6. Theme updates

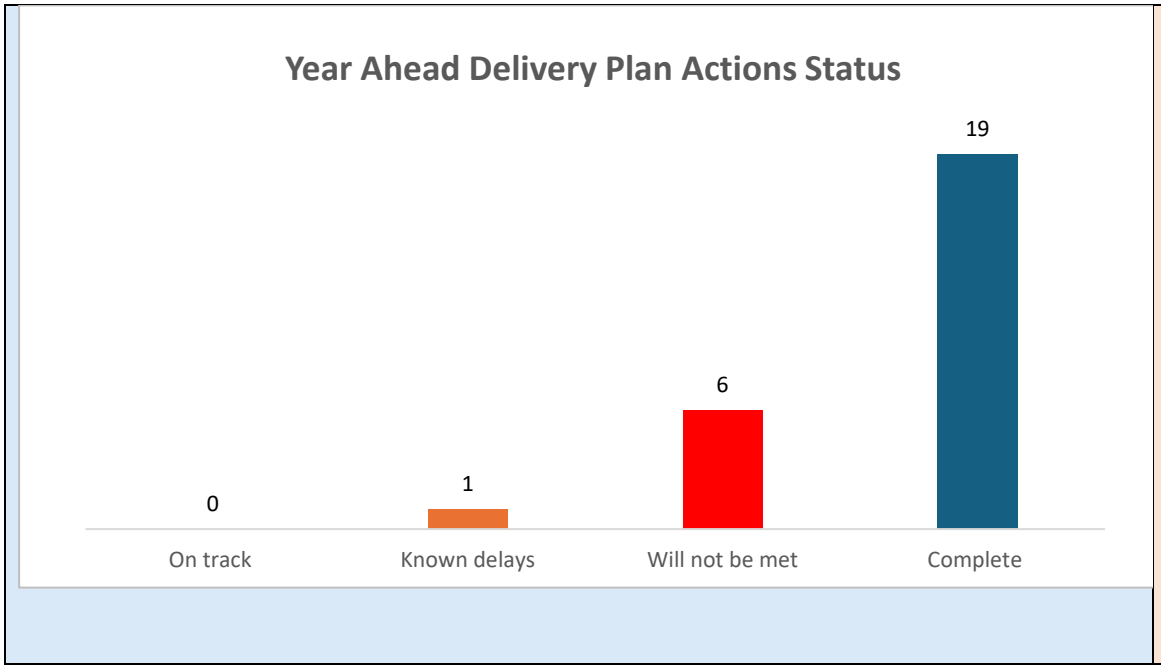
Outcome – Places are thriving, safe and clean		
Council Plan Priorities	**The differences you've seen in the first year of the Council Plan**	**The differences you will see over 2026/27**
Helping people to feel safe in their community	• Launched the Street Safe Team who actively patrol the town centre, Maltby, Wath, Dinnington and Swinton. • The Community Safety Strategy 2025–2028 has been approved, which focuses on safer neighbourhoods, tackling violence and exploitation, and preventing offending while building resilience. • Designs for road safety schemes are progressing across 12 wards, with most on track for delivery from Autumn 2026.	• Commencement of on-site works for identified road safety schemes, alongside development of the first 12 Ward Road Safety Plans ahead of public consultation in 2027/28. • Delivery of at least 50 enforcement interventions by the Street Safe team, including formal warnings, Fixed Penalty Notices and statutory notices.
Creating vibrant communities	• Construction is underway in Swinton, and work is starting in Maltby in August 2026. Public consultation on upgrades to civic centres and cenotaphs was completed in February 2026, with designs now progressing. • A strong programme of events has been delivered, attracting 157,504 attendees (up 3.2%). • Detailed designs have been completed for Dinnington High Street, and demolition of Wath library commenced in February 2026.	• Completion of the Maltby and Swinton schemes, and progress delivering cenotaphs and Memorials improvements and public realm improvements to civic centres. • Delivery of a varied programme of cultural events across the borough, supporting opportunities for residents and visitors to engage in community activities. • Completion of the demolition of Wath Library, alongside continued progress on the construction of the Dinnington High Street regeneration project.

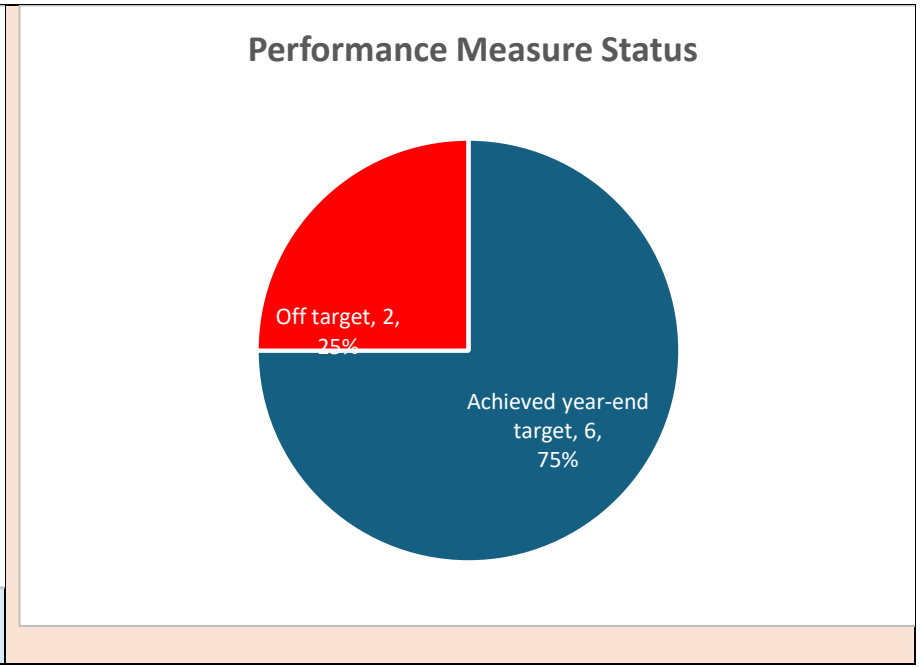
		• Investment in community facilities including: The Black Hut, Clifton Learning Centre, Oaklea Retreat, The Meeting Place, the United Multifaith Community Centre, Eastwood Community Centre, and Artworks.
Better public spaces	• £11.1m total investment in the cafe facilities at Thrybergh and Rother Valley Country Parks. • Ongoing investment in road maintenance with 328 schemes delivered, resurfacing 35.6 miles (57km) of roads and 8.1 miles (13km) of footpaths. The number of potholes has more than halved from 34,000 potholes in 2014/15 compared to just 15,521 in 2025/26. 12.23 tonnes of waste have been removed by a new Roadside Cleaning Team across 222km of roads. • Flood alleviation scheme designs progressing at Catcliffe and Whiston Brook.	• Expansion of the Council's roadside cleaning service through recruitment to the Phase 2 team and investment in new machinery, supporting the continued maintenance of green spaces to a high standard. • Commencement of works for the Whiston Brook flood alleviation scheme, supporting improved flood resilience for local communities. • Delivery of prioritised minor transport improvements brought forward by Ward Members and communities.
Revitalising the town centre	• Construction is underway on Riverside Gardens and Corporation Street. • Work has commenced on the first phase of a town centre health hub. • The pocket park at Snail Yard opened in February. • New town centre housing designs are progressing ahead of Cabinet in July.	• Opening of the new Rotherham Central Library to the public. • Complete the construction of the Outdoor Market, alongside the works at Riverside Gardens and Corporation Street. • Completion of public consultation to inform the development of the draft Town Centre masterplan.

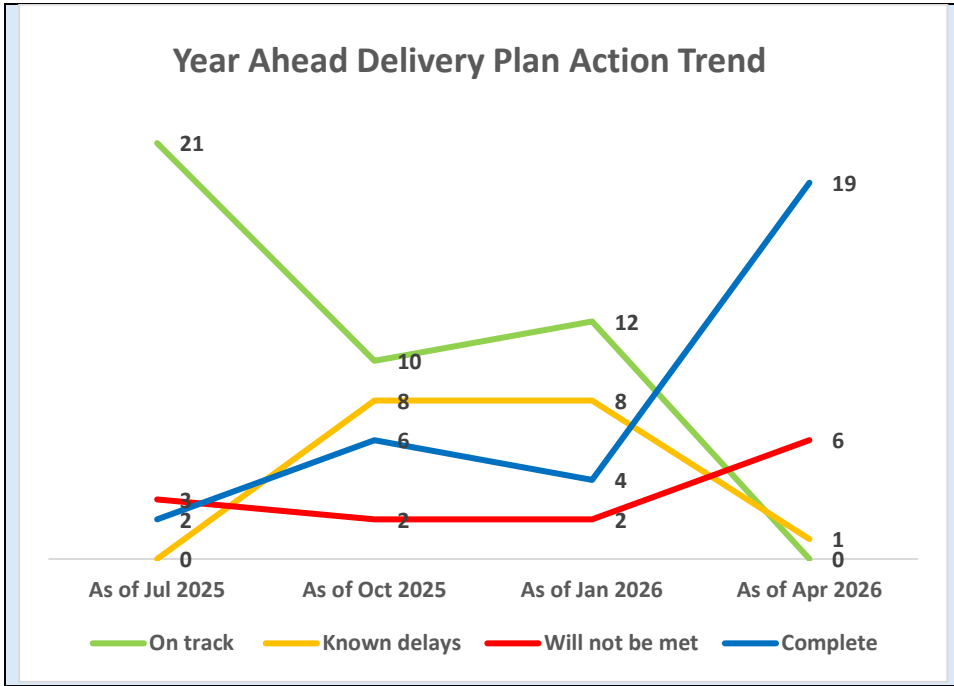
	• Rotherham's 'Regeneration Plan' has been submitted in response to the Government's new grant fund 'Plan for Neighbourhoods'.	

Headlines – evidencing our progress

To provide evidence of delivery of the outcomes and commitments within this theme, there are 26 priorities/actions and 8 performance measures contained within the Year Ahead Plan Delivery Plan. The diagrams below provide an overview of performance and progress:







Highlights – Achievements and Challenges

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to the priority actions within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

Places are thriving, safe and clean

Achievements - Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities and Performance Measures that have been completed since Quarter 2:

P4 Delivered 37 groups sessions that reached 991 children and young people to help tackle hate crime incidents through the Remedi 'Step Up, Beat Hate' Restorative Hate Crime Project.
P5 Throughout 2025/26, a total of 1,156 formal enforcement actions (Community Protection Notices and Community Protection Warnings) had been issued against a year-end target of 1,000 *(higher is better).*
P7 To date, 10 ward reports have been presented at Council. Remaining ward reports will be presented throughout the next two years up to early 2028.

P10 Successfully delivered a range of cultural events including UPLIFT Urban Sports Festival, The Birthday Party and annual Civic events. The estimated attendance for events hosted in 2025/26 was 157,504.
P12 Work started on the demolition of Wath library on 9 February 2026.
P13 The Cohesion Grant Fund was delivered throughout 2025/26 by a wide range of partners across the borough, supporting diverse activities. This included a small grants programme that funded various community events to celebrate St George's Day.
P15 Delivered 14.47km of footway improvements, through £1.66m of investment.
P16 Completed redevelopment works at Rother Valley Country, including the new Waterfront Café which opened to the public on 17 April 2026.
P17 Completed redevelopment works at Thrybergh Country Park, with a soft launch takin place on 26 January, before formally opening in February 2026.
P18 Progress has been made with the Catcliffe Flood Alleviation Scheme and a delivery partner has been appointed to develop the design.
P22 Completed the procurement of 16 new Refuse Collection Vehicles.
P23a 81.59% of the local 'principal' road network is classified as 'green status' (do not require repair), against a year-end target of 80% *(higher is better).*
P23b 80.46% of the local 'non-principal' road network is classified as 'green status' (do not require repair), against a year-end target of 77% *(higher is better)*.
P23c 70.97% of the local 'unclassified' road network in Quarter 4 2025/26 was classified as 'green status' (do not require repair), against a target of 65% *(higher is better).*
P24 68 effective enforcement actions for fly tipping were issued throughout 2025/26, against a year-end target of 60 (higher is better).
P26 710 trees were planted across the borough throughout 2025/26, against a target of 500 *(higher is better)*.
P29 The pocket park at Snail Yard opened to the public in February 2026.
P30 Contractor appointed and minor works started at the first phase of a Health-Hub in January 2026, providing health-based services in the town centre.
P31 The development of plans to RIBA Stage 1 for the next phase of major housing in the town centre has been completed, ahead of consideration by Cabinet in July 2026.

Challenges - Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities that will not be met within three months of the original target date, and Performance Measures that have not achieved target within 2025/26:

P3 develop and consult on tranche 2 Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme and have designs ready for delivery, is now due to be completed in Quarter 2 2026/27.
P6 19 residential rehabilitation placements to receive support for drug/alcohol misuse were started in total during 2025/26, against a target of 33 *(higher is better).*

P8 The refresh of the Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy has been delayed due to the Assistant Chief Executive vacancy. Two complementary strategies will now be developed, the Neighbour Leadership Strategy (due to Cabinet in Quarter 2 2026/27) and the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy (due to Cabinet in Quarter 3 2026/27).

P9 Work on site for Swinton's Our Places Fund scheme began in March and work on Maltby's scheme is now due to begin in Quarter 2 2026/27.

P14 as part of the Council's investment in community facilities across the borough, works commenced on Oaklea Retreat in June 2026, works at the meeting place are due to start in July and options are being developed for the Black Hut, informed by the completion of the required surveys.

P19 Some flood alleviation schemes are experiencing delays. Works at Whiston are scheduled to begin in June 2026, while designs for the Eel Mires and Kilnhurst schemes are expected to be completed in Quarter 2 2026/27, with Environment Agency approvals anticipated in Quarter 3 2026/27.

P21 The procurement of all vehicles within the Fleet Replacement Plan is delayed and is anticipated to be completed by the end of September 2026.

P25 The provisional 2025/26 year-end figure for the proportion of household waste recycled and composted was 43.9%, against the year-end target of 45% *(higher is better).*

P28 Complete construction works to the Outdoor Covered Market - construction has been delayed due to a requirement for design changes. The works will now be complete by the end of June and will be open to the public from the 10th July 2026.

Narrative – the bigger picture

The 'Places are thriving, safe and clean' outcome is about creating neighbourhoods where people feel safe, proud, and connected, while ensuring public spaces are well maintained and vibrant.

A range of actions have been delivered to improve community safety. Following its launch in December, the Street Safe Team has maintained a visible presence in the town centre, Dinnington, Wath, Maltby and Swinton, providing reassurance, deterring anti-social behaviour, supporting police activity through intelligence sharing and assisting vulnerable individuals. The Community Safety Strategy (2025–2028) was adopted in November 2025, focusing on safer neighbourhoods, tackling violence, abuse and exploitation, and preventing offending. Preventative activity has also continued through the Remedi ‘Step Up, Beat Hate’ project, which engaged 991 children and young people and delivered 98 targeted one-to-one interventions for those at risk of perpetrating hate crime.

Progress has continued in creating vibrant communities. Ward plans aligned to local priorities are being delivered, with ten ward reports presented to Council, strengthening accountability. Regeneration activity has progressed with the demolition of Wath library beginning to make way for new facilities and the demolition of burnt-out buildings on Dinnington High Street in February. A programme of cultural and civic events, including Roots Street Carnival, St George’s Day and Children’s Capital of Culture activity, has attracted over 157,000 attendances, supporting community pride and inclusion. The Community Cohesion Grant Fund has enabled locally led initiatives, including activities linked to St George’s Day. Delivery of the Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme and the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy have been delayed into 2026/27.

Investment in public spaces has delivered significant improvements while responding to pressures from extreme weather and infrastructure demand. The Highway Repair Programme completed repairs to 14.47km of footways through £1.66m of investment, improving accessibility and safety. Major parks developments have been completed at Thrybergh and Rother Valley Country Parks, including the new Waterfront Café and event space. The Roadside Cleaning Team, operational since October 2025, is delivering a dedicated rural verge cleaning programme. Flood alleviation work has progressed at Catcliffe with a delivery partner appointed to progress the design and at Whiston Brook, where works are due to commence in 2026/27. Preparatory work continues at Eel Mires Dyke and Kilnhurst. Fleet replacement and refuse vehicle procurement are progressing but have experienced delays, with revised timelines now extending into 2026 and 2027.

Work to revitalise the town centre has continued. Snail Yard pocket park opened in February 2026, and initial works began in January 2026 on a new Health Hub, contributing to increased town centre activity and accessibility. The Council also submitted its Regeneration Plan to the Government’s ‘Plan for Neighbourhoods’ fund in November 2025, positioning the borough for future investment. However, some projects have been delayed, including the Outdoor Covered Market, where construction is now due to be completed in June, before opening in July.

Year Ahead Delivery Plan tracker

Places are thriving, safe and clean					
Ref	**Outcome**	**Activity**	**Timescales for delivery**	**Status**	**Rationale for status**
P1	**Helping people to feel safe in their community**	Launch the Street Safe Team to provide a visible presence of uniformed staff in the town centre, Dinnington, Wath, Maltby and Swinton.	Quarter 2	Complete	The Street Safe initiative in Rotherham has begun delivering tangible results since the appointment of a Community Safety and Protection Manager in September 2025 and a Street Safe Coordinator in November. The team was launched in December 2025, providing a visible, uniformed presence that reassures the public and deters anti-social behaviour. Despite some early operational challenges, such as technical issues with body-worn video, the officers have already made a significant impact. Their intelligence sharing has contributed to police arrests for drug offences, and they have provided welfare support to vulnerable individuals, including escalating a high-risk domestic abuse case for multi-agency intervention. These actions demonstrate the value of the initiative in improving safety, tackling persistent issues like substance misuse and environmental concerns and ensuring collaborative working across services.

P2		Agree a new Community Safety Strategy for 2025-2028.	Quarter 3	Complete	The new Community Safety Strategy for 2025-2028 was endorsed by Cabinet on 15 September 2025 and agreed at Council on 5 November 2025. The Safer Rotherham Partnership has used an evidence-based approach to agree the new priorities, drawing on analysis of partnership crime and community safety data and the outcomes of a comprehensive programme of consultation to capture the views of key stakeholders, including people who live, visit or work in Rotherham. The Strategy sets out three key priorities for the Safer Rotherham Partnership including safer neighbourhoods, tackling violence, abuse and exploitation and preventing offending and building resilience.
P3		Develop and consult on tranche 2 Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme and have designs ready for delivery.	Quarter 4	Will not be met	There are schemes across 12 wards included in tranche 2 of the Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme across the borough. Currently, 8 of these schemes are with design consultants where they are being developed to detailed design stage, prior to being issued for construction in Quarter 3 2026/27, with the delay in securing these contracts leading to the delay on the action. Ahead of this, consultation will take place to ascertain if Traffic Regulation Orders or Road Hump notices are required.

					Two schemes, Sitwell and Rotherham East, are linked to the larger City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) project due to their location. The action is now due to be completed in Quarter 2 2026/27.
P4		Tackle hate crime incidents and the driving factors of hate crime through the delivery of education and engagement group and individual sessions: • 600 children and young people to attend group sessions • 55 one to one sessions.	Quarter 4	Complete	The Remedi 'Step Up, Beat Hate' Restorative Hate Crime Project is an important aspect of the Safer Rotherham Partnership's strategy to prevent and address hate crime. Offering one-to-one sessions for young people and adults who are involved in or at risk of perpetrating hate crime, as well as delivering hate crime awareness workshops to youth groups across Rotherham, it aims to support the Partnership's agreed priorities. Throughout 2025/26, 37 group sessions were delivered, reaching 991 children and young people. 98 one-to-one interventions were delivered to individuals involved in or at risk of perpetrating hate crime. Delivery was consistent across the year, with the highest volume of group outreach in Quarter 3. The project supports Safer Rotherham Partnership priorities through both preventative group work and targeted restorative interventions.

P5 P6		Performance measures – see below			
P7	**Creating vibrant communities**	Delivery of ward plans through ward reports being reported to Council from July 2025, which have been informed by local communities.	Quarter 4	Complete	Reports from the following ten wards have been presented at Council: • Anston & Woodsetts • Aston & Todwick • Aughton & Swallownest • Boston Castle • Bramley & Ravenfield • Brinsworth • Dalton & Thrybergh • Dinnington • Greasbrough • Hellaby & Maltby West The remaining ward reports will be presented throughout the next two years.
P8		Refresh the Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy which will reflect the Council's continued approach towards working with local communities and the further integration of locality-based services.	Quarter 4	Will not be met	Delayed due to the Assistant Chief Executive vacancy. A review of the approach to this area has been undertaken to ensure that the strategy ensures a proper focus on the work of Ward Members in their communities and how this relates to the Council's ambition around Thriving Neighbourhoods. Two complementary strategies will now be developed: • Neighbourhood Leadership Strategy – focused on the role of members in

					their wards and how they are supported. This is due to be presented to Cabinet in Quarter 2 2026/27. • Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy – focused on how the Council and partners will integrate and target services at a Locality (North, Central and South), ward and neighbourhood level by using data, taking a strengthened based approach and maximising the opportunity to involve communities in the co-production of service delivery, projects and initiatives. This is due to be presented to Cabinet in Quarter 3 2026/27.
P9		Implement Phase 1 of the Our Places Fund by starting work on the Swinton & Maltby schemes.	Quarter 4	Will not be met	<u>Swinton</u> The scheme is now underway. The site set up took place on 31 March 2026 and works have now started on site. <u>Maltby</u> The Maltby scheme has been delayed due to additional funding, increased scope and design changes requested by Rotherham Council and start on site is now expected in Quarter 2 2026/27. Phase 2 of the Our Places Fund includes upgrades to civic centres and cenotaphs. Consultation on these schemes concluded on 5 February 2026, and designs are progressing.
P10		Deliver cultural events in varied locations throughout	Quarter 4	Complete	This year's events programme has now been delivered, this included:

		the borough, including such events as: • Rotherham Show • Signals Festival • Uplift • WoW Rotherham • Christmas Lights' Switch On • Support for ward-based community galas and festivals.			• The annual Rotherham Show which attracted 95,000 visitors over two days. • Children's Capital of Culture events including the Skate Park at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) show at Wentworth and the School Baton Relay which involved more than 80 schools. • Bonfire Night which welcomed in excess of 12,000 to Clifton Park to enjoy the spectacular firework displays. • Delivery of the annual Civic and Town events including UPLIFT Urban Sports Festival, Christmas Lights' Switch On and Armed Forces Day. Events across the year attracted an estimated total audience of 157,504, an uplift of 3.2% on the previous year. Accessibility statements are prepared for all events to ensure inclusivity.
P11		Appoint a contractor to undertake Stage 4 designs for the Dinnington High Street regeneration project.	Quarter 3	Complete	The Council is now leading on the Stage 4 designs. Stage 4 designs were completed late November 2025.
P12		Start work on the demolition of Wath library to make way for new facilities.	Quarter 3	Complete	Work started on 9 February 2026.

P13		Support communities across the borough through the delivery of the Community Cohesion Grant fund.	Quarter4	Complete	The Cohesion Grant fund was delivered by a range of partners across the borough. This included a broad range of activity, bringing different communities together around different shared activities and interests. Given the Council's commitment to marking St George's day, some of this activity was re-designed to provide an opportunity to boost civic pride in place and therefore was completed by 4 May. This included funding through a small grants programme, a range of events to celebrate St George's day across the borough.
P14		To invest £300k in community facilities across the borough to sustain and increase the participation, activities and engagement within them. This includes the Black Hut and Oaklea Retreat.	Quarter 4	Will not be met	<u>The Black Hut</u> Work is progressing on surveys and design development, with two options currently being considered. These are either refurbishing the existing building or demolishing it and replacing it with a new modular type unit. A final decision will be made once all surveys have been completed, including bat surveys scheduled for 2 July 2026. Design proposals will then be shared with stakeholders before procurement activities commence. <u>Oaklea Retreat</u> Works commenced 8 June with a current programme of four weeks. Sandersons Building Services have been awarded the contract to undertake windows, asbestos removal and general refurbishment.

					Completion is forecasted by the end of Quarter 2 2026/27. <u>The Meeting Place</u> Sanderson Building Services have been awarded the contract to undertake windows, asbestos removal and general refurbishment. Work will start on site the 15th July 2026 to fit in with a further tenant request. It has been agreed that the flooring will be carried out as a priority, allowing the centre to open whilst other works are carried out.
P15	**Better public spaces**	Invest £2 million into footway improvements across the borough to deliver 11km of footway repairs.	Quarter 4	Complete	As part of the Highway Repair Programme 2025/26, footway repairs were undertaken across the borough. A total of 14.47km of repairs were made, with a total expenditure of £1,665,315.
P16		Complete redevelopment works at Rother Valley Country Park.	Quarter 3	Complete	The Waterfront Café and event space opened on the 17 April 2026.
P17		Complete redevelopment works at Thrybergh Country Park.	Quarter 4	Complete	Work started on site in August 2025 and completed in December 2025. Redevelopment works included accessible pathways, new play facilities for children and the redeveloped café which opened on 12 February 2026.
P18		Progress the Catcliffe Flood Alleviation Scheme by engaging a delivery partner to progress the design.	Quarter 4	Complete	A report was presented to Cabinet in November 2025. Tender documents were issued in March 2026 to begin engagement with the market to

					deliver the project. Design proposals were received in response. Following the evaluation process, the contract was awarded on the 18th of June 2026 to progress the design work for the scheme.
P19		Reach shovel ready status on Whiston Brook, Eel Mires Dyke and Kilnhurst flood alleviation schemes.	Quarter 2	Will not be met	The delivery of these three complex flood alleviation schemes requires access to land owned by third parties. The site investigations and design have been delayed on all three projects due to the requirement to obtain formal approval to carry out site investigation and/or alter existing topography. The Whiston Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme is progressing. The contract for construction has now been awarded and the land purchases, which are essential for this scheme, are in the final phase of being secured. The works are due to commence on site in Quarter 1 2026/27, with a proposed 14-month delivery period. The design work in principle for both Eel Mires Dyke and Kilnhurst Flood Alleviation Schemes are both due to be completed in Quarter 2 2026/27. Approvals from the Environment Agency are expected by Quarter 3 2026/27.

P20		Establish the additional Roadside Cleaning Team.	Quarter 2	Complete	The Roadside Cleaning Team were established in October 2025, with the rural verge programme commencing in October 2025. Throughout 2025/26, the team successfully completed 161 sites covering 222.44km of roads. During this period, the team collected 3,442 bags of waste, amounting to a total of 12.23 tonnes removed.
P21		Complete the procurement of all vehicles within the Fleet Replacement Plan.	Quarter 3	Will not be met	23 vehicles have been received, with contracts in place for a further two. One additional vehicle is awaiting contract approval. There are 11 vehicles currently progressing through procurement, with business cases and specifications submitted. A further four are awaiting service approval of their business cases. 62 vehicles are under review by the electric vehicle (EV) working group, which is assessing how electric vehicles will be supported across depot sites. Three vehicles are currently on hold while the remaining 13 are in the early stages of being scoped for replacement. Procurement will now be completed by the end of September 2026.

P22		Complete the procurement of the Refuse Collection Vehicles.	Quarter 3	Complete	The procurement of 16 new Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) has now been fully procured and awarded, with delivery times to be confirmed.
P23a P23b P23c P24 P25 P26		Performance measures – see below			
P27	**Revitalising the Town Centre**	Start work on Riverside Gardens and Corporation St public realm works.	Quarter 1	Complete	Work began on Riverside Gardens and Corporation Street in May 2025.
P28		Complete construction works to the Outdoor Covered Market.	Quarter 4	Known delays	The construction of the outdoor market has been delayed due to a requirement for design changes. The works will now be complete by the end of June and will be open to the public from the 10th July 2026.
P29		Complete landscaping works to the pocket park at Snail Yard.	Quarter 3	Complete	Opened to the public in February 2026.
P30		Start works on the first phase of a Health Hub providing health-based services in the town centre.	Quarter 3	Complete	Minor works began 20 January 2026.
P31		Complete development of plans to the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage 1 for the next phase of	Quarter 2	Complete	Originally delayed enabling the addition of another site. Initial designs are being developed in preparation for presentation to and consideration by Cabinet in July 2026.

		major housing in the town centre.			
P32		Submit Rotherham's 'Regeneration Plan' in response to the Government's new grant fund 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' (formerly known as Long Term Plan for Towns).	Quarter 3	Complete	The 'Regeneration Plan' was approved at Cabinet on 17 November 2025 and submitted to the Government on the 27 November 2025.

Performance measures

Ref	Measure	Good Performance	2024/25 Year End	Target (If Applicable)	Q1 (Apr-Jun)	Q2 (Jul-Sep)	Q3 (Oct-Dec)	Q4 (Jan-Mar)	Year End	Progress Update	Rag Rating
P5	Issue 1,000 formal enforcement actions to help address anti-social behaviour in communities.	High	1,124	1,000	211	354	270	321	1,156	In Quarter 4, there have been 321 combined enforcement actions (Community Protection Notices (CPNs) and Community Protection Warnings (CPWs)). This is an increase of 51 when compared to Q3 (270) and a decrease when compared with Q4 24/25 (461) by 140. CPNs have decreased by 2 in Q4 (52) when compared with Q3 (54) and have decreased by 9 when compared with Q4 24-25 (61). CPWs have increased by 53 in Q4 (269) when compared with Q3 (216) but have decreased by 131 when	

										compared with Q4 24-25 (400). At the end of Q4 a total combined number of enforcements issued was 1,156 which is 156 above the target. The issuing of CPN and CPW notices has been more consistent this year than in previous years. Some of the CPN & CPW figures which were reported at Q1, Q2 and Q3 have been amended here to reflect the data cleansing process which was carried out in recent week.	
P6	33 adults to start a residential rehabilitation placement to receive support for drug/alcohol misuse.	High	29	33	0	12	14	5	19	The number of clients that With You are placing in residential rehabilitation has significantly reduced since last year. 19 residential rehabilitation placements	

										were started in total during 2025/26. The current provider's model for identification and assessment for this intervention differed from previous years, where a dedicated worker led this activity. However, there was no waiting list for this intervention, or clients assessed as suitable but unable to access it, and the delivery shortfall may be as a result of high number going last year and/issues with the pathway. This is being addressed. The targets for increasing the numbers who access this intervention in future years will remain a key priority for the Public Health Grant under the new protected grant arrangements.	
P23 a	Maintain the proportion of	High	80.8%	80%	n/a	n/a	81.59%	n/a	n/a	Principal road conditions are reported annually, in	

	road network classified as 'green status' (do not require repair): Achieve 80% of the 'principal' road network.									2025/26 the figure was reported on in Quarter 2. Currently at 81.59% rated 'green status' (do not require repair). Principal roads are exceeding their target of 80% rated green. Principal road condition is currently at 81.59% for 2025-26, which is an increase of 0.54% on 2024-25 (81.05%).	
P23 b	Achieve 77% of the 'non-principal' road network.	High	78.5%	77%	n/a	n/a	80.46%	n/a	n/a	Non-principal road conditions are reported annually, in 2025/26 the figure was reported on in Quarter 2. 80.46% rated 'green status' (do not require repair). Non-principal roads are exceeding their target of 77% of roads rated green. Non-principal road conditions is currently 80.46% for 2025/26, which is an increase of 2% on 2024/25 (78.46%).	

P23 c	Achieve 65% of the 'unclassified' road network.	High	66.2%	65%	69.07%	69.52%	72.00%	70.97%	70.97%	Unclassified road condition data is reported quarterly and is currently at 70.97% in green (good condition) status. This exceeds the target of 65%. This is a decrease of 1.03% when compared to Q3 (72.00%) and an increase of 3.99% on Q4 2024/25 (66.98%). The aim of the extra £3m funding which ends in May 2028 is to arrest the unclassified network from further deterioration and to therefore maintain the current highway performance figures. In January 2026 the Department for Transport (DfT) published the national average road condition data for 2024/2025. The national average which should be considered for maintenance for unclassified roads was 17% (red condition). In comparison, in Q4 2024/25 Rotherham was	

										at 10.93% for unclassified roads which means that Rotherham performed better than the national average.	
P24	Undertake effective enforcement action for fly tipping by issuing a minimum of 60 fixed penalty notices.	High	69	60	18	17	8	25	68	This year has seen 68 effective enforcement actions for fly tipping, which is above the expected annual target of 60. Quarter 4 saw 25 effective enforcements. Therefore, the measure has achieved its target.	
P25	Increase the proportion of waste sent for reuse (recycling and composting) to 45%.	High	37.1%	45%	49.43%	45.12%	39.52%	39.94%	43.9%	Data now includes household waste recycling centres (HWRC) recycling. Finalised figures are provided 3-month in arrears so figures are likely to change and will be updated as/when they are received. Seasonality impacts the recycling percentage in winter months leading to a decline in the amount of green waste collected in	

										comparison to the previous quarters. Additionally, nationwide capacity issues for wood recycling meant that not all wood was recycled at the HWRCs during this period. Quarter 4 has seen an overall recycling rate of 39.94%, this is a slight reduction on Quarter 3 of 0.19%. Quarter 4 is also slightly down on the same point last year (2024/25), which was 41.00%. The provisional annual % of waste which is recycled is 43.9%. This would mean this measure had missed the annual target of 45%.	
P26	Plant at least 500 trees across the borough.	High	597	500	n/a	n/a	618	92	710	This measure tracks tree planting in urban areas. Planting season happens in Quarter 3 and 4. The target is 500 trees for 2025/26, 710 were	

										planted (618 trees planted in Quarter 3 and 92 trees planted in Quarter 4). This is an increase on the previous year (2024/25) when the annual total for tree planting was 597.	

Long-term measures of success

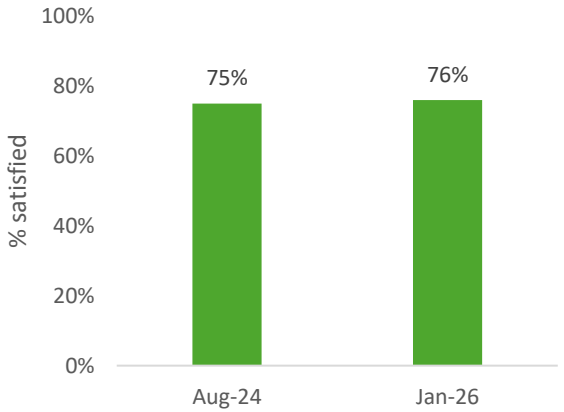
The annual long-term measures for this theme paint a broadly positive picture of how residents experience Rotherham as a place to live, with improvements recorded across the majority of indicators.

Satisfaction with the local area as a place to live has risen slightly from 75% to 76%, continuing a long-running pattern of stability. It should be noted that the 'local area' refers to the local neighbourhood or village where residents live and not the whole of Rotherham. As with previous year's results residents' satisfaction with their local area exceeds their satisfaction with Rotherham borough, which was 59% in the most recent Rotherham Satisfaction survey.

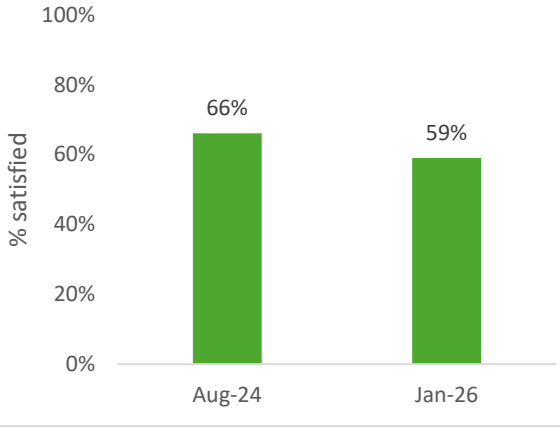
Annual footfall in the town centre increased from 13.6 in 2024/25 to 14.1 million in 2025/26.

The percentage of vacant units has decreased to 24%, a positive result reflecting a broadly stable retail and commercial environment.

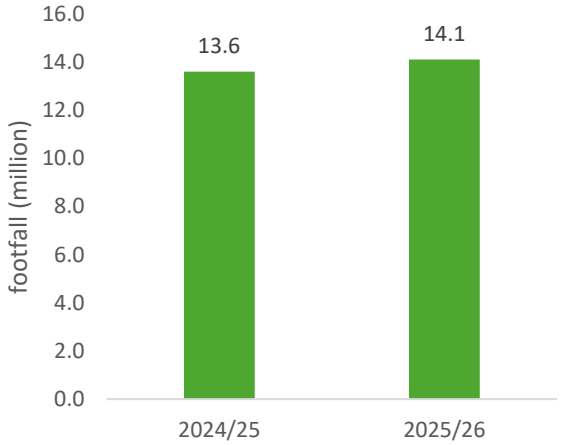
KPI 1*. An increase in the proportion of people satisfied with their local area as a place to live



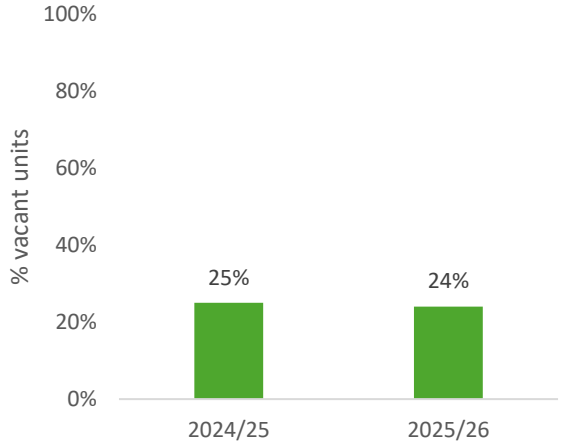
KPI 2*. An increase in the proportion of people satisfied with the Rotherham borough as a place to live



KPI 3. An increase in footfall in the town centre



KPI 4. A decrease in the percentage of vacant units in the town centre



The results on this page demonstrate that feelings of safety during the day have improved slightly, with 86% of residents saying they feel safe in their local area during the day, and the borough's streets are cleaner than last year with 95% of sites classed as acceptably free of litter and rubbish.

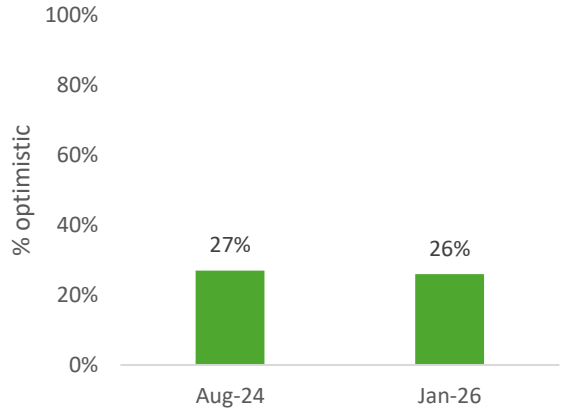
Optimism about the future of the town centre scored at 26%, just below the 27% baseline reported in 2024.

There has been a decline in feelings of safety after dark from 57% to 54%.

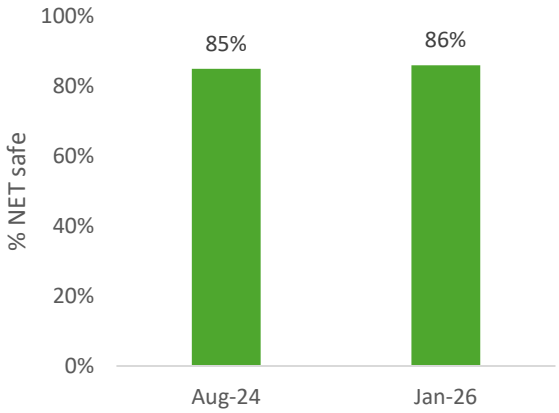
In 2025/26 95% of sites were classed as (acceptably) free of litter and rubbish, which has increased from 88% in 2024/25.

**NB: the relatively small sample size of the Rotherham surveys means that only a difference of five per cent or more between different survey results indicates a statistically significant change.*

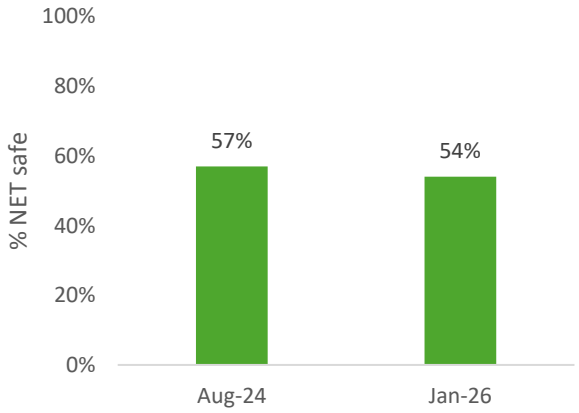
KPI 5*. An increase in the proportion of people optimistic about the future of Rotherham town centre



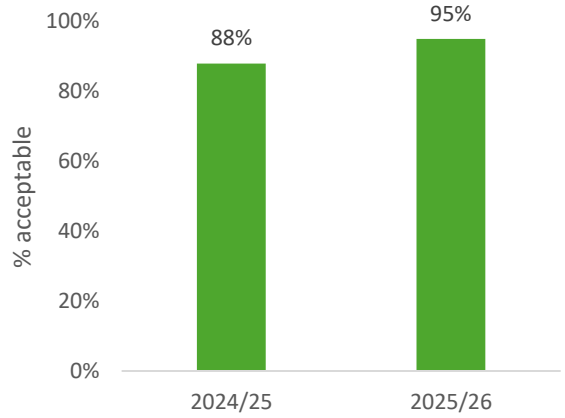
KPI 6*. An increase in the proportion of public that feel safe when outside in their local area during the day



KPI 7*. An increase in the proportion of public that feel safe when outside in their local area after dark



KPI 8. An increase in the percentage of sites classed as (acceptably) free of litter and rubbish



Case studies

Rotherham Council ranked one of the best in the country for road repairs

The Council has been named one of the best in the country for pothole repairs, road condition, smart investment and best practice.

In January 2026, the Government introduced a new 'traffic light' system - four scorecards measuring road condition, the level of local investment into highways maintenance and the extent to which Councils follow best practice - with green for the best, amber for adequate and red for those which need to improve.

Rotherham is one of only three of the 159 England Local Authorities and the only South Yorkshire Council to receive a green ranking for all four categories shown in the table below, which is due to a £39m investment between 2015 and 2024, with a further £16m committed to the Rotherham Roads Programme until 2028.

Local highway authority	Overall rating	Condition scorecard	Spend scorecard	Best practice scorecard
Barnsley	Amber	Amber	Green	Amber
Doncaster	Amber	Amber	Green	Amber
Rotherham	Green	Green	Green	Green
Sheffield	No rating [PFI Contract]	Green	No rating [PFI Contract]	Amber

Council investment has significantly reduced the number of potholes requiring repair. In 2014/15, 34,000 potholes were fixed, compared to just 15,521 in 2025/26—meaning the figure has more than halved since the investment began.

Ongoing maintenance has also improved overall road conditions. Currently, only 2.24% of Rotherham's A road network requires repair, well below the national average of 4%. Similarly, 2.27% of B and C roads need attention, compared with 7% nationally.

For unclassified roads, just 8.81% of Rotherham's 774km network requires repair—significantly lower than the national average of 17%.

In 2025/26, council investment delivered 328 maintenance schemes, resurfacing 35.6 miles (57km) of roads and delivering 9.04 miles (14.47km) of footway repairs.

Looking ahead to 2026/27, work is ongoing on 124 roads and 93 footways. Key locations include High Street and Tickhill Road in Maltby, Greasbrough Street in Masbrough, and Canklow Roundabout.

Resident feedback reflects this progress, with 84.5% of those surveyed expressing satisfaction with the Highways team's repair work during 2025/26.

The Council's approach has also gained national recognition. In March 2026, Simon Lightwood MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Transport, visited Rotherham to observe best practice. The visit included a live resurfacing project on Remount Road, Kimberworth Park, attended by Sarah Champion MP, local councillors, and Cabinet Member Councillor John Williams, alongside the Council's Highway Delivery Team.

Cllr Chris Read, Leader of Rotherham Council, said*: "Nobody likes potholes – they're frustrating for drivers and they can damage vehicles – so we made it a priority to tackle the problem head-on to make sure Rotherham's roads are safe to drive on.*

"Over the last decade, we've invested £55 million into improving the borough's roads, and that's why we're now ranked among the best in the country. You can see the difference - 10 years ago we were repairing more than 30,000 potholes a year, now that number has more than halved because the roads themselves are in better condition.

"*It's not just about quick fixes; it's about making sure our roads are built to last, and that's what this investment is delivering."*

"Nobody likes potholes – they can be dangerous for drivers and other road users, and they leave areas looking neglected – which is why we made it a priority to tackle the issue head-on. It's good to see this recognised in these latest government statistics.

"What this doesn't mean of course is that there are no problems. Industry analysis suggests there is a £17 billion backlog of resurfacing works to roads right across the country, and Rotherham is not exempt from that.

"But what the numbers do show is that the additional local investment of £55 million we've made into improving the borough's roads, in addition to the national block grant funding we receive, has moved us firmly in the right direction. This year alone we will resurface 200 roads. 10 years ago there were more than 30,000 potholes reported each year, now that number has more than halved. When many other parts of the country have not made that investment, Rotherham's roads are now in better condition than the national average.

"Finally, the Department for Transport analysis recognises that we are intervening earlier to stop road surfaces worsening, including using what is known as "surface dressing" to extend the life of the road surface, so we're also getting the best value for the taxpayer."

Figure 1 - Winlea Avenue Brecks, Before and After

Figure 2 - Charles Street Kilnhurst, Before and After

New Street Safe team hits the ground in Rotherham

The introduction of the Street Safe Team in December 2025 in Rotherham town centre has already demonstrated a strong and effective approach to tackling anti-social behaviour through partnership working, early intervention and coordinated enforcement. A recent case involving an individual causing significant concern illustrates this well.

Shortly after moving to the area, an individual became known to local partners including RMBC, South Yorkshire Police and the business community due to escalating anti-social behaviour. This resulted in daily reports from the public and businesses, with incidents involving intimidation for money, minor public order offences and causing distress to retail staff. The individual's unstable circumstances, including homelessness and rough sleeping, contributed to the frequency of incidents.

Despite several arrests for low-level offences, a more coordinated response was required. The Street Safe Team and South Yorkshire Police therefore worked together to implement a problem-solving approach, combining enforcement and support, with improved information sharing to better understand behaviour and enable timely action.

The Street Safe Team maintained a regular presence in the town centre, engaging with the individual and collecting evidence using body-worn video. Support was offered through referrals to vulnerable adult and mental health services, alongside enforcement action, including a Community Protection Warning followed by a Notice. Continued breaches and further offences led to a more robust police response and arrest.

As a result, the individual was charged with multiple offences and remanded into custody, where they are awaiting sentencing. They are now receiving mental health support, with a Criminal Behaviour Order being prepared and support arrangements in place for their release.

The impact of this intervention has been significant. Feedback from businesses and the public has been overwhelmingly positive, with a noticeable improvement in confidence within the town centre. The case has also helped to establish stronger joint working practices and intelligence-sharing processes between partners, creating a more sustainable approach for dealing with similar issues in the future.

This example highlights how the Street Safe Team is contributing to a safer and more welcoming town centre. By combining visible presence, early intervention, enforcement action and support, the team is not only addressing immediate issues but also helping to build longer-term solutions. It reflects the council's wider commitment to revitalising high streets, restoring community confidence and ensuring that public spaces are safe, accessible and enjoyable for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

Cllr Chris Read, Leader of Rotherham Council, said: *"We're acting on what our communities have told us - that feeling safe and visible support matters - as part of the changes we're making to support our local high streets.*

"We want Rotherham to feel safe and welcoming for everyone. Our new team are there to lend a hand, point people in the right direction and to take action against the minority who can put other people off. They've already supported the police with this individual in the town centre, and they're providing valuable evidence and feedback.

"But this initiative isn't just about enforcement. It's about restoring pride and trust in our public spaces - giving residents and visitors a familiar presence that's welcoming, approachable and ready to help. So when you see them, do say hello!"

Paul Murphy, Community Protection Manager and lead of the new team, said: "We're pleased that we're on the ground and already making a difference. The Street Safe team is all about giving people confidence that our high streets are safe, welcoming places to visit and enjoy. The team is approachable, proactive and ready to tackle issues head-on, while working closely with partners to keep things moving in the right direction.

Having the team in place is a big step forward for Rotherham, and we're excited about the positive impact the team will have for residents, businesses and visitors."

Outcome: An economy that works for everyone

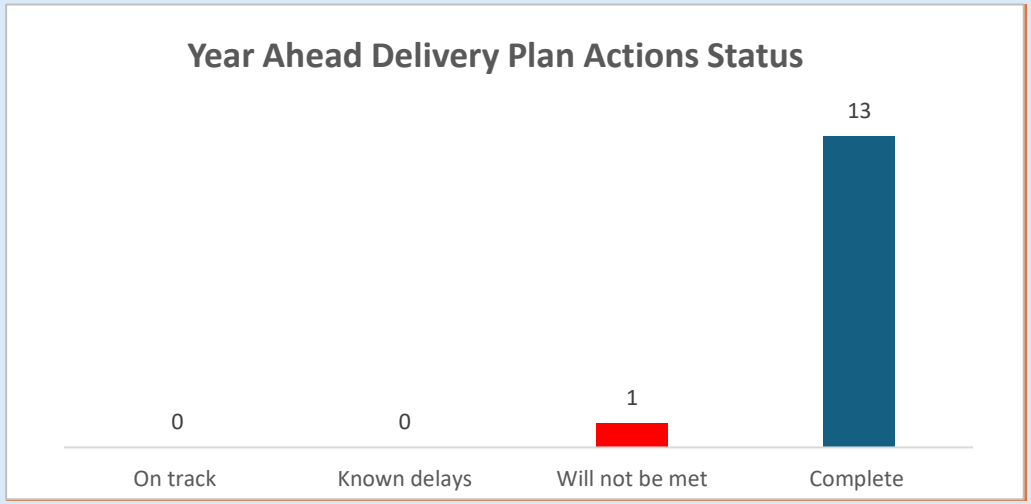
Priorities	The differences you're seeing through the first year of the Council Plan	The differences you will see in 2026/27
Developing the economy	• Launch of the Don Valley Corridor Development Partnership and establishment of a mayoral development zone to drive forward investment and regeneration. • Construction of the Templeborough business zone project has commenced. • Successful shop unit business grants scheme delivered across local town centres.	• An expanded shop units grants programme, providing at least 50 grants to high street businesses. • A comprehensive business support offer helping around 550 businesses, with 60 receiving dedicated start-up support through our upgraded business centres, and 60 high-growth firms benefiting from a key account management service.
Enhancing skills	• 87 people found work through the new economic inactivity trailblazer (Pathways to Work), whilst the Council's Employment Solutions service delivered 222 training interventions and helped 249 people into work. • Partner organisations starting to embed social value by trialling it in procurement processes.	• 1,000 Rotherham residents helped to access employment pathways with at least 250 finding work. • Through Pathways to Work, start a programme of subsidised work placements, supporting young people to move towards, and into employment.
Connecting people to opportunity	• Programme business case completed, unlocking funding for the full mainline station business case. • Magna tram-train station opened, improving connections to key employment sites.	• A contracting strategy in place for the design and delivery of Rotherham Gateway rail infrastructure. • A plan produced to improve the public realm and consider land uses along the corridor from Rotherham Gateway Station to the town centre.

	• All major South Yorkshire bus depots now under public ownership, including Rawmarsh depot in Rotherham. • Invitation to tender issued in February to provide demand responsive Transport services across Rotherham (and Doncaster).	

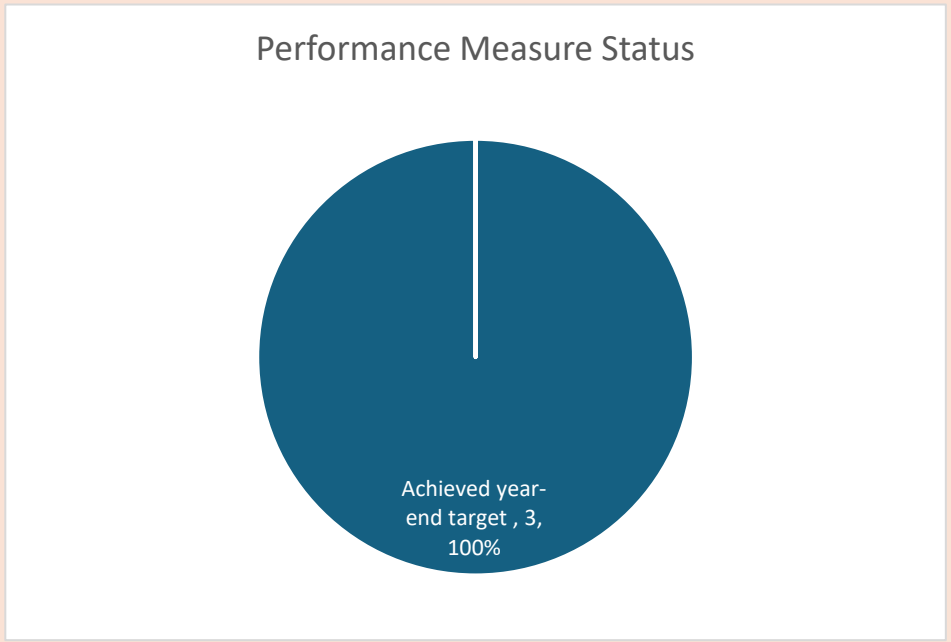
Headlines – evidencing our progress

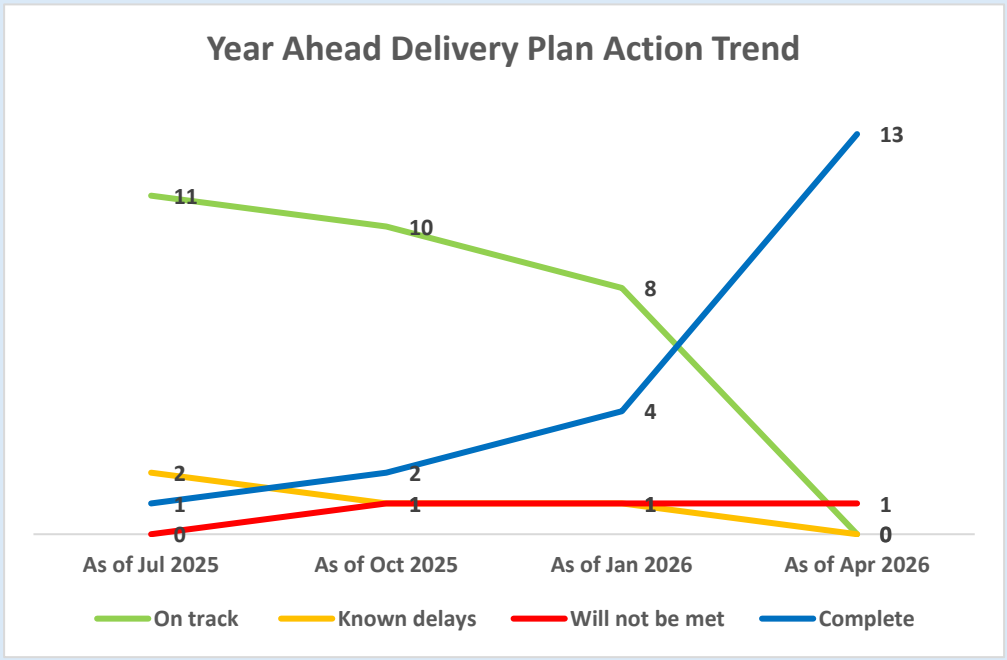
To provide evidence of delivery of the outcomes and commitments within this theme, there are 14 priorities/actions and 3 performance measures contained within the Year Ahead Plan Delivery Plan. The diagrams below provide an overview of performance and progress:

Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions/milestones



Performance measures




Year Ahead Delivery Plan Action Trend
11
10
8
13
4
2
2
1
1
1
1
0
0
As of Jul 2025
As of Oct 2025
As of Jan 2026
As of Apr 2026
On track
Known delays
Will not be met
Complete

Highlights – Achievements and Challenges

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to the priority actions within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

An economy that works for everyone
Achievements - Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities and Performance Measures that have been completed since Quarter 2: **E1** Construction of the Templeborough Business Zone began on the 8 June 2026. **E2** 46 shop unit grants were accepted across the town centre, Dinnington, Maltby, Swinton and Wath as part of the shop unit grants programme in 2025/26, against a target of 20. **E4** 83 businesses were helped to start up through Launchpad and Business Centres, against a target of 70 *(higher is better).* **E5** Provided advice and support to 522 local businesses, against a target of 500 *(higher is better).* **E6** The Employment and Skills Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet on 15 December 2025 and approved at the Strategic Partnership Group on 21 January 2026. **E7** The Employment Solutions Service supported 471 individuals to access training or paid employment during 2025/26, exceeding the target of 455. Of these, 222 individuals progressed into training opportunities, while 249 secured paid employment. **E8** Developed and implemented an apprenticeship action plan to work with partners to develop more apprenticeships across the borough, work is ongoing and includes targeted engagement with relevant stakeholders, schools and universities **E9** Supported 45 young people aged 16-25 to access paid employment through traineeships and internships as part of the Children's Capital of Culture programme. **E12** The proportion of new starter apprenticeships created within the Council increased to 1.68% of the workforce, against the year-end target of 1.5% *(higher is better).* **E13** A Programme Business Case has been completed in relation to the Rotherham Gateway (Mainline Station) masterplan and was submitted to South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority in January 2026. **E14** Work is ongoing to support South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and partners to develop the Outline Business Case for Waverley, with completion of the Outline Business Case expected in March 2027. **E15** The tram-train station and park and ride at Magna opened on 9 April 2026. **E16** Consultation on the draft designs for City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement active travel and bus priority proposals on Fitzwilliam Road and Broom Road commenced in May 2026. **E17** A programme of work experience continues to be implemented and developed through regular engagement with schools, colleges, universities and local businesses, including the introduction of One Council placements across services in the Council.

Challenges - Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities that will not be met within three months of the original target date or Performance Measures that have not achieved target within 2025/26:
E3 - upgrades to business centres at Century (Manvers) and Matrix (Dinnington) have been delayed. Activity at Fusion (Templeborough) is complete.

Narrative – the bigger picture

Through action in this theme, the Council and its partners seek to ensure the economy is growing in a way that creates opportunities for residents in every corner of the borough. This means improving connectivity and attracting investment, supporting existing businesses and potential entrepreneurs, giving people the chance to gain skills and find work, and – through our social value policy - ensuring the public sector pound delivers maximum benefits for people and places.

This year has seen the delivery of a new scheme supporting high street businesses to improve shop units, aiming to improve the look of local town centres and boost trade. An initial target of 20 businesses supported was more than doubled, with huge interest in the scheme seeing 46 grants awarded. As a result, the scheme has been extended and expanded in 2026/27.

The Council's business hubs at Manvers, Templeborough and Dinnington have been upgraded over the course of the year. Offering space and free support to new and growing small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the hubs are benefiting from fire stopping works and a new roof at Century 2 in Manvers, which is due to be completed in 2026/27.

A new employment and skills strategy for Rotherham was approved by partners in January. This will direct future provision based on three missions of supporting people into work, improving core skills for employment, and delivering a workforce for sustainable economic growth.

Fully up and running from August 2025, the new economic inactivity trailblazer had helped 87 people into paid work by March 2026, 33 of whom had never worked or been long-term unemployed. This compliments the Council's ongoing Employment Solutions service, which supported 471 people into training or paid employment in 2025/26, including 222 entering training and 249 securing employment.

On social value, Rotherham's key partner organisations have completed phase 2 of an ambitious partnership project. Ultimately, it aims to generate benefits worth over £50 million for local people and communities through procurement processes and suppliers' additional contractual commitments.

Major transport projects took significant steps forward in 2025/26. A programme business case for Rotherham Gateway was submitted to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), leading to the release of funding for development of a full business case, which was approved in January 2026. The aim is still for a mainline station to open around 2030. At the same time, the Council is working with SYMCA and other partners to progress an outline business case for the planned train station at Waverley. The new tram-train station at Magna opened in April, improving connections between Rotherham and Sheffield and increasing access to jobs in Templeborough, where the new business zone is taking shape with construction starting in June. The station includes 100 free park and ride spaces, along with cycle parking and electric vehicle charging.

Year Ahead Delivery Plan tracker

Outcome: An economy that works for everyone					
Ref	**Outcome**	**Activity**	**Timescales for delivery**	**Status**	**Rationale for status**
E1	**Developing the economy**	Start construction of the Templeborough Business Zone Project.	Quarter 2	Complete	Work started on site on 8 June 2026.
E2		Support up to 20 businesses to improve shop units in the town centre and on other principal high streets through the new 'shop units grants' programme.	Quarter 4	Complete	To date, 50 shopfront grants have been offered, with 46 accepted and given across the town centre, Dinnington and Maltby. Funding has been identified to continue the project in 2026/27.
E3		Deliver the programmed upgrades to business centres at Century (Manvers), Fusion (Templeborough) and Matrix (Dinnington) including improvements to internal facilities.	Quarter 4	Will not be met	<u>Century Business Centre – Roofing</u> Work started on site on the 15th June 2026. Work has also taken place with a range of stakeholders to ensure the least amount of disruption to the businesses operating from the Centre. <u>Dinnington Matrix and Century Business Centre – Fire Stopping</u> Contractors have now attended the site as part of a pre-start meeting, taking on board disruption to tenants/business users. Works to commence on both business centres simultaneously and the start date has now been confirmed as 6th July. Works are anticipated to be programmed over 8 weeks. The contractor is

					creating a detailed programme in order for the Business Centre Management to coordinate with the tenants. <u>Fusion Fire Stopping</u> Complete.
E4 E5		Performance measures: see below			
E6	**Enhancing skills**	Adoption of Employment and Skills Strategy.	Quarter 2	Complete	The Employment and Skills Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet in December 2025 and approved by the Strategic Partnership Group in January 2026. Delivery has commenced overseen by the Employment and Skills Board of the Rotherham Together Partnership.
E7		Through the Employment Solutions service, support a minimum of 455 people to access employment, (including training, education, apprenticeships, and paid employment).	Quarter 4	Complete	Throughout 2025/26, the Employment Solutions service supported 471 people, including 222 training interventions and 249 individuals who moved into employment.
E8		Develop and implement an apprenticeship action plan that documents the work with partners to develop more apprenticeships across the borough.	Quarter 4	Complete	The partnership apprenticeships working group has established a baseline to help understand the types of apprenticeships available across the partnership. The apprenticeship action plan was presented to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) group meeting in July 2025 and approved by partners. Work towards the action plan continues to take its course along with targeted engagement with

					relevant stakeholders, schools and universities. The group also takes advice from the South Yorkshire Apprenticeships Hub around opportunities to link up between organisations, and initiatives to increase numbers of apprenticeships.
E9		Support 25 young people aged 16-25 into paid employment through traineeships and internships as part of the Children's Capital of Culture Programme.	Quarter 3	Complete	The Children's Capital of Culture programme has been completed with a focus on embedding the legacy of this initiative across services and partners. Throughout the festival year, the programme supported 45 young people aged 16-25 to access paid employment through traineeships and internships.
E10		Implement an Economic Inactivity Trailblazer, providing a new system of support to economically inactive residents to re-enter the workforce.	Quarter 1	Complete	Delivery began 1 April 2025. It is being delivered through an internal team of employment advisers, alongside 13 voluntary and community sector organisations to ensure that provisions are embedded in community settings. The Employment Solutions team are also working to provide personalised support through a dedicated Economic Inactivity Trailblazer team. At the end of 2025/26, Pathways to Work (Economic Inactivity Trailblazer) had engaged 388 participants onto programme with 87 participants supported into paid work (22% conversion – which mirrors regional averages across South Yorkshire). Over 45% of jobs started were full time, with 54% of jobs being permanent. 38% of participants moved into work

					had been long term unemployed or had never worked before.
E11		Complete delivery of Phase 2 of the Rotherham Together Partnership's Social Value Action Plan.	Quarter 3	Complete	Phase Two began in June 2025 with the first monthly forum, bringing together senior stakeholders from partner organisations. All partners have now engaged in 1-2-1 workshops with consultants from the Social Value Portal. The Chamber of Commerce and Voluntary Action Rotherham, with the support of the Social Value Portal, have each created a framework for their 'connector' roles within social value in Rotherham. The annual Social Value event was held in July 2025, attended by representatives from across the partnerships.
E12		Performance measure: see below			
E13	**Connecting people to opportunity**	Completion of a Strategic Case in relation to the Rotherham Gateway (Mainline Station) Masterplan.	Quarter 3	Complete	Conversations have taken place with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) colleagues to explore a 'place-based' approach to delivering the masterplan. A Programme Business Case has been completed and submitted to SYMCA in January 2026. The assurance process will not begin before formal submission to SYMCA's Investment Board.
E14		Work with regional partners to support SYMCA in their work to develop the Outline Business	Quarter 4	Complete	Work is ongoing to support South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and partners to develop the Outline Business Case for the new railway station at Waverley.

		Case for the new railway station at Waverley.			The work is on track as expected, completion of the Outline Business Case is expected in March 2027.
E15		Work with regional partners to support SYMCA in their work to construct a new tram-train stop at Magna.	Quarter 4	Complete	The tram-train stop at Magna opened on 9 April 2026.
E16		Consult on draft designs for City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement active travel and bus priority proposals on Fitzwilliam Road and Broom Road.	Quarter 4	Complete	Consultation on the draft designs commenced in May 2026.
E17		Develop and deliver a programme of work experience, supported internships, apprenticeships and graduate schemes to ensure effective career pathways and succession planning.	Quarter 2	Complete	Programme is implemented and ongoing. Development and review continue, with new connections and opportunities being sought internally on a regular basis. One Council placements have been implemented, where students can experience several areas of the Council, and feedback has been very positive. Connections have also been made with external local businesses to refer applications on that cannot be supported within the Council. The Council continue to connect with schools, colleges and universities to promote work experience, apprenticeships and graduate opportunities through Rotherham Council. Activities include careers fairs, networking events, presentations to students, spotlight sessions and use of local university online careers hubs to promote vacancies.

Performance measures

Ref	Measure	Good Performance	2024/25 Year End	Target (If Applicable)	Q1 (Apr-Jun)	Q2 (Jul-Sep)	Q3 (Oct-Dec)	Q4 (Jan-Mar)	Year End	Progress Update	Rag Rating
E4	Help 70 businesses to start up.	High	78	70	23	26	24	10	83	The total for this measure (the combined Business Centre and Launchpad totals) for Quarter 4 is 10 (17 through Launchpad and 7 through Business Centres). This is the lowest quarterly total for this measure since Quarter 1 2023/24. This measure exceeded the target in Quarter 3. The cumulative total for the year is 83. The service report that occupancy rates at the Business Centre average 82%, with Fusion and Century seeing a reduction due	

										to natural turnover of businesses at the sites but forecast to recover. Century 2 had a strong quarter of enquiries, with 4 units let bringing occupancy to 85%.	
E5	Provide advice and support to 500 local businesses.	High	522	500	147	173	88	114	522	Quarter 1 saw 147 sessions delivered. Quarter 2 saw 173 sessions delivered. Quarter 3 saw 88 sessions delivered. Quarter 4 saw 114 sessions delivered, 25 more than the last quarter (Quarter 3 2025/26), and 14 more than Quarter 4 2025/26. This means the annual target has been met, with a cumulative total of 522 sessions delivered. The focus on the shop unit grant which impacted Quarter 3, did not impact Quarter 4 and with resourcing back to business as usual a	

										more typical quarterly total was achieved for Quarter 4.	
E12	Increase the proportion of new starter apprenticeships created within the Council as a percentage of the workforce to 1.5%.	High	0.9%	1.5%	1.11%	1.21%	1.48%	1.68%	1.68%	Quarter 4 2025/26 figure is 1.68% in comparison with the Quarter 4 2024/25 figure of 0.91%. The target was hit for the first time this year with the increase in apprenticeships attributed to an increased focus on early careers and improved links between the Organisational Development team and services across the Council to identify opportunities for apprenticeships. National Apprenticeship Week took place in February 2026, which provided	

										the opportunity to further promote apprenticeships and engagement with managers for the coming year.	

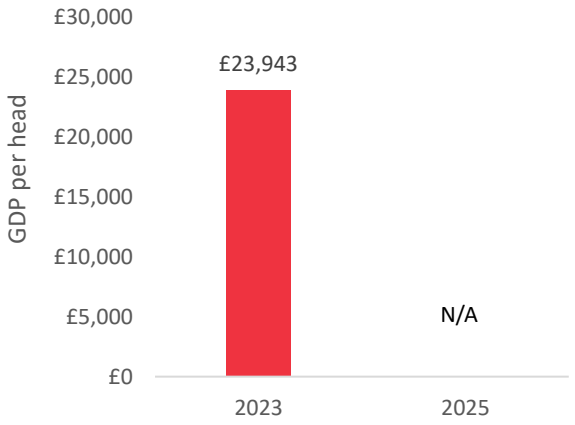
Long-term measures of success

The results of the annual long-term measures for this theme are broadly positive, although persistent structural challenges facing Rotherham's economy are still present. The most encouraging picture is on skills and employment: the proportion of working-age residents holding a Level 2 qualification or higher has risen to 84.3%, and 75.5% of the working-age population is now in work or actively seeking it, up from a baseline of 74.4%.

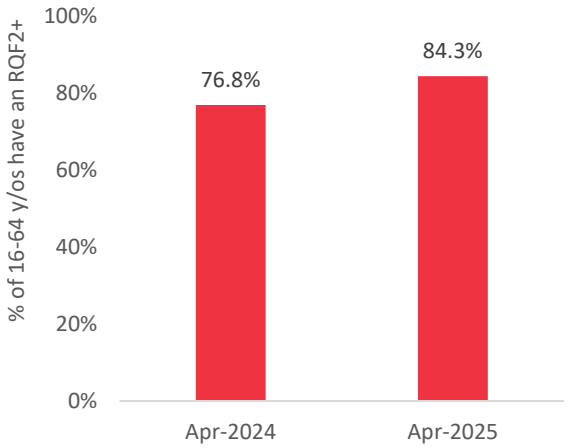
The picture on business density and economic output is more challenging. The number of businesses per 10,000 residents has fallen slightly from 340 to 329.

It is important to note that there is a three-year lag in gross domestic product (GDP) data, which is provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Therefore any interventions delivered in the current Council Plan period will not be visible in this measure until 2029.

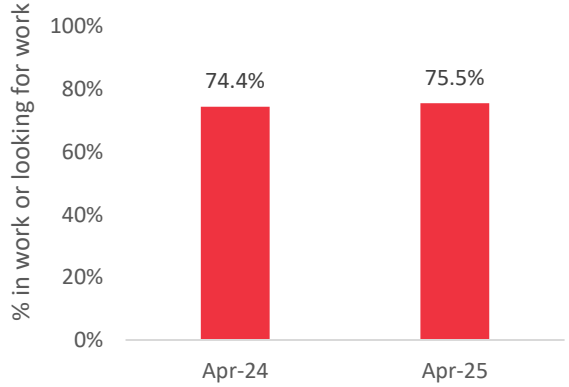
KPI 9. An increase in the value of Rotherham's economy
(Source: ONS)



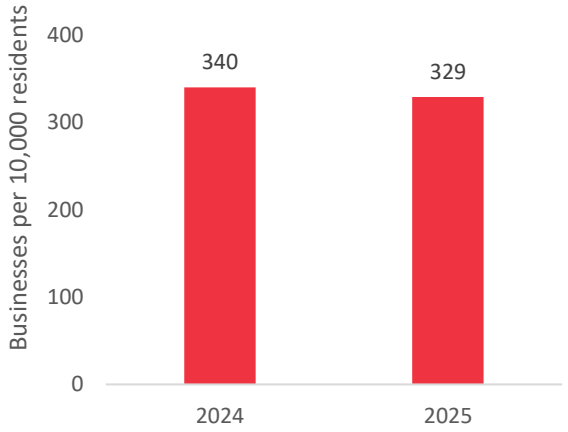
KPI 10. An improvement in the skills of residents in the borough



KPI 11. An increase in the proportion of the working age population who are in work (or actively looking for work) in Rotherham



KPI 12. An increase in the number of businesses in Rotherham per 10,000 residents



Case studies

Shop Unit Grant Programme

Rotherham Council have launched an initiative to improve high street locations throughout the borough, making them look more appealing and working with businesses to increase footfall into the town centres.

Using UK Shared Prosperity Fund money, the Shop Unit Business Grant scheme was set up as a pilot initiative to improve the high street location.

Businesses within eligible locations were able to apply for up to £25,000 in grant funding to improve the exterior location of their properties. Improvements included new signage, repainting the exterior of the property along with new and improved shop frontage.

Specific areas of the five principal towns of Rotherham were chosen as pilot areas. The town centre, Dinnington, Maltby, Swinton and Wath Upon Dearne had small pilot areas where businesses were able to apply for the funding through a competitive application process.

Over the course of the scheme, 46 businesses successfully secured funding to make improvements to the premises.

Improvements included complete paint refresh of exterior of premises, new windows and shop frontages, improved accessibility for premises, new signage, new lighting to improve visibility, especially at night, new awning, new doors, new carpets internally and some internal refreshment.

All works were carried out by legitimate local suppliers, who worked with the clients to supply quotes, carry out the work and then invoice for payment to be made.

Feedback from clients that have undertaken the process has been positive with many stating that the projects would not have been undertaken without the grant funding.

Not only has the exterior work made the premises look better, new doors, windows and shop frontages have helped to make premises warmer and more economical. Businesses that have carried out internal remodelling have reported that it has made them more attractive to customers.

“The grant has improved the visibility and presence of the business, as well as enhancing the street scene.

“Although it is still relatively early days, I’ve noticed passersby stop and look at it and we have also received one new business enquiry which we can directly attribute to the new signage.” Cannon PR, Town Centre

“We now look like a modern up to date business, a more inviting and aesthetically pleasing place to enter. We believe our customers both new and old will be with us long into the future. An updated business on the High Street, whereas before we had an outdated, uninviting frontage which gave the impression of us not caring about the business or our customers which was simply not true. We are now ready for the modern age and are very pleased with the finished result” - Prestige Printers, Swinton

Phase two of the Shop Unit Grant scheme is being launched, funded through the Local Growth Fund. There will be £565,666 made available with the focus being on the following areas:

- Rotherham town centre
- Parkgate (from the bottom of Rawmarsh Hill - excluding big national chains)
- Dinnington
- Maltby
- Swinton
- Thurcroft
- Wath
- Dalton (Doncaster Road)

Applications outside of these areas will be considered on a case-by-case basis but priority will be given the areas listed above.

Priority for this funding will centre around:

- Bringing empty shops/units back into use – maximum grant of up to £15,000
- External work (signs/facias/lighting) - maximum grant of up to £10,000
- Internal work – no electrical, plumbing or construction work. – maximum grant of up to £10,000

There will be two calls for applications, with dates to be confirmed. All applications will go through to panel and be assessed against set criteria.

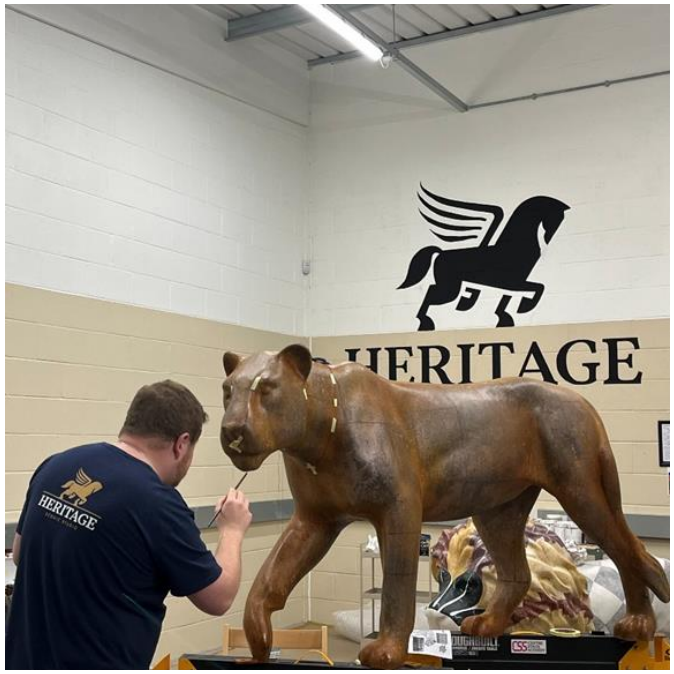
Launchpad success story: Heritage Scenic Studio's journey to high-profile productions

Joe Philpott and Sam Piper launched Heritage Scenic Studio in August 2025, based at the Council's Century 2 Business Centre. The business is a specialist training and scenic painting studio supporting work across theatre, film, events and interiors.

Drawing on over 20 years of industry experience, Heritage Scenic Studio provides hands-on training for aspiring artists through weekend workshops and intensive courses. Alongside this, they deliver consultancy services and commissioned scenic work for productions and creative projects, helping to meet growing demand for high-quality scenic artistry.

Joe and Sam first engaged with Launchpad in May 2025 while developing their business idea and searching for premises. Through tailored one-to-one support and expert-led workshops, they strengthened their business knowledge and built solid foundations for growth. This early support enabled them to move confidently from concept to trading.

Since launching, the business has gone from strength to strength. Continued support from Launchpad and their base within the Council's Business Centres has helped them grow quickly, securing a range of high-profile projects in their first year.



Their work includes contributions to the Pride of Yorkshire Sculpture Trail for Sheffield Children's Hospital and scenic painting for several UK theatre productions, including Sheffield Theatres' upcoming production of Summer Holiday. They have also achieved a major milestone by delivering their first full West End production, with all scenic painting completed at Century 2.

Through their rapid growth and increasing reputation, Heritage Scenic Studio demonstrates how targeted business support can help local entrepreneurs turn specialist skills into thriving enterprises.

Client testimonial

"We've had an exceptionally busy and exciting few months, working on the Pride of Yorkshire Sculpture Trail and several UK theatre tours." Joe Philpott, Heritage Scenic Studio

"The support and guidance we've received from Launchpad has played a significant role in developing the business and enabling us to deliver our first full West End production." Joe Philpott, Heritage Scenic Studio

Employment Solutions

The past year has seen some exciting new developments and great achievements in the Employment Solutions Team. This is the first year that the core Team has been centrally funded following a budget investment, a decision based on the success of the previous 5 years, and how invaluable the service was to the wider support offered by the Council. The core team, named “Elevate” achieved all agreed targets by December 2025, and over-achieved on engagements and customers supported into employment by the end of the 2025/26 financial year.

Summer 2025 also saw the start of an expansion with an incredibly successful assessment and interview event in preparation for the ‘Pathways to Work’ Trailblazer delivery. 13 new people have been introduced to the wider team, who are tasked with engaging with and supporting “economically inactive” customers into employment.

Using encouragement to be innovative in selection processes, the Employment Solutions team opted away from traditional interviews in the hope of being able to observe some of the key qualities that were needed within the new team.

Quote from participant on the day: *“I’ve really enjoyed the day, even if I am not successful, I feel that I have really got something out of this, and after the first few minutes, forgot my nerves as I got involved in the tasks.”*

Recruitment & Networking

The two bi-annual recruitment events held at Riverside have each attracted an average of 46 employers and providers, along with strong engagement from job seekers in the community. These events continue to be well recognised by both the community and employers, with plans to build on their success through new additions in the future.

A quote from employers at the event - *‘Well organised event, steady flow of customers and lots of interest and engagement’ ‘great networking opportunity’ ‘interviewed six suitable candidates on the day.’*

Training offer

In-house training provision has been expanded through the appointment of a dedicated training officer and the development of partnerships with external providers. Softer skills training to support customers in progressing towards employment has proven highly successful, with 242 candidates completing bespoke courses. These have ranged from core employability skills, such as job searching and CV development, to tailored programmes designed in collaboration with a range of employers.

Pre-employment training programmes have included guaranteed interviews for each participant, with many securing roles upon completion. These opportunities have been well received, with candidates frequently highlighting how enjoyable and valuable the sessions have been.

Elevate (core funded team)

The Elevate annual targets were achieved by December 2025, a testimony to the fantastic teamwork involved. Over 500 individuals engaged with advisors resulting in 118 training achievements and 143 jobs secured. Other customers have upskilled and moved much closer to employment.

Individual Placement Support (IPS)

The Individual Placement Support (IPS) team have taken 208 referrals from the treatment team at ‘We are With You’ and managed to engage 94 people recovering from substance misuse into employment support. Out of the 94 engaged, 36 managed to gain sustainable, paid employment. Despite some challenges, all targets were well exceeded, demonstrating exceptional teamwork to support some of the more challenged residents, not only helping them into work, but also to significantly improve their day to day lives.

Economically Inactive Trailblazer

There have been many positive success stories, highlighted in April at the first Pathways to Work celebration event, where these were shared with the wider community. The sense of pride was clear throughout.

Employers and young people spoke about their early successes in employment, alongside a full-circle story from within the Pathways team. Amanda, who initially approached Employment Solutions for support during a challenging time, now plays a key role as part of the triage team.

Quote from Amanda: *“I can’t recommend the Employment Solutions service enough, from my adviser Stewart, to training and support from all staff. It really helped me to get where I am … and I am really enjoying the job so far.”*

In total, at the end of Quarter 4, 1,569 referrals for support had been received, of which 842 started a programme within the Employment Solutions service. In total, 471 people were supported into training or paid employment, exceeding the overall target. This included supporting 222 people into accredited training and 249 people into paid employment.

The Employment Solutions team engaged with vulnerable and socially excluded customers to access training and employment opportunities, including those with protected characteristics and economically inactive customers. They have offered support to unemployed candidates seeking flexible working, childcare friendly work options and early retirees returning to the workforce.

With the new Pathways to Work initiative to support delivery, and with the procurement of different courses, Employment Solutions will be able to offer an even wider range of training to help even more people across the borough. The impact will be a more highly skilled and confident workforce, ready to help improve the local economy in Rotherham

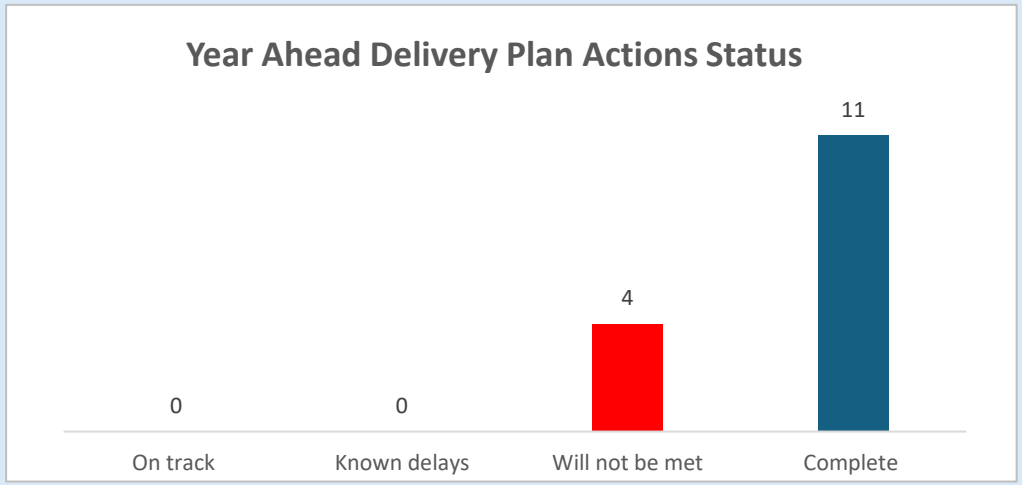
Outcome: Children and young people achieve		
Priorities	**The differences you are seeing in the first year of the Council Plan**	**The differences you'll see in 2026/27**
Ensuring children and young people have fun things to do	• The watersplash facility at Clifton Park opened in July 2025, and playground improvements have taken place at Chestnut Grove, Rother Valley, Thrybergh Country Park, and Rosehill Park. • Across the 2025 festival year, over 1,000 events and activities were delivered alongside a wide-ranging in-school creative learning programme reaching more than 120 schools and colleges. • The Children's Capital of Culture programme continues to support children and young people from diverse backgrounds across programmes including the Youth Programming Panel, Arts Award accreditation and Volunteering Schemes. • The voluntary and community sectors delivered 1356 universal youth work sessions.	• Deliver improvements to a further eight playgrounds. • Deliver an extra 10,000 places throughout the year as part of the Healthy Holidays Activity programme. • Continue to embed the legacy and learning from Children's Capital of Culture. • Refresh the self-catering and recreational facilities at Crowden Outdoor Education Centre.
Enabling children and young people to thrive	• 100% of eligible families who requested a Baby Pack received one. • The building work at Erics Manns is now complete and the Parent Carer Forum are now occupying the building and delivering services within the Community. • Implementation of a new education case management system to enable improved identification and targeted support for children and young people, particularly those	• Deliver a scheme to provide financial support for families with children during the school summer holidays as part of the measures agreed through the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF). • Increase permanent staffing by 2 full time equivalent (FTE) Educational Psychologists to create capacity for a targeted early intervention offer that supports schools to implement a whole school inclusive approach for children with SEND.

	with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), to enhance educational outcomes and preparation for adulthood. • All 27 Rotherham secondary schools and colleges have worked with the Council's Careers Consultants and the South Yorkshire Careers Hub to improve careers provision and meet the Gatsby Benchmarks, the national framework for high-quality career guidance. • Independent Travel Training has been delivered to support greater independence for young people with SEND, with 20 pupils trained by March 2026.	• Ongoing implementation of the new education case management system.
Keeping children and young people safe from harm	• Delivery of new in-house residential homes is progressing. One additional home opened in August 2025, a further home has been submitted for registration, and capital works are complete on another pending recruitment of a Registered Manager. • Planning and early implementation of the Families First Partnership Programme and Family Help Strategy is underway. • The No Family Left Behind Strategy was approved by Cabinet in September 2025.	• Provide the remaining two planned children's in-house residential homes • Implement the new Families First delivery model which includes early intervention, a whole-family approach, and strengthened multi-agency partnerships to provide targeted, timely support that keeps families together (as currently defined by Department for Education).

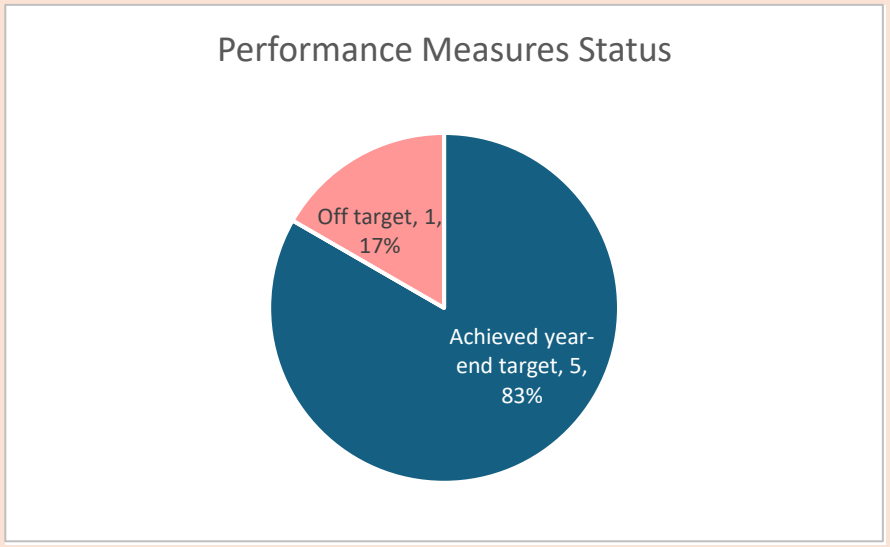
Headlines – evidencing our progress

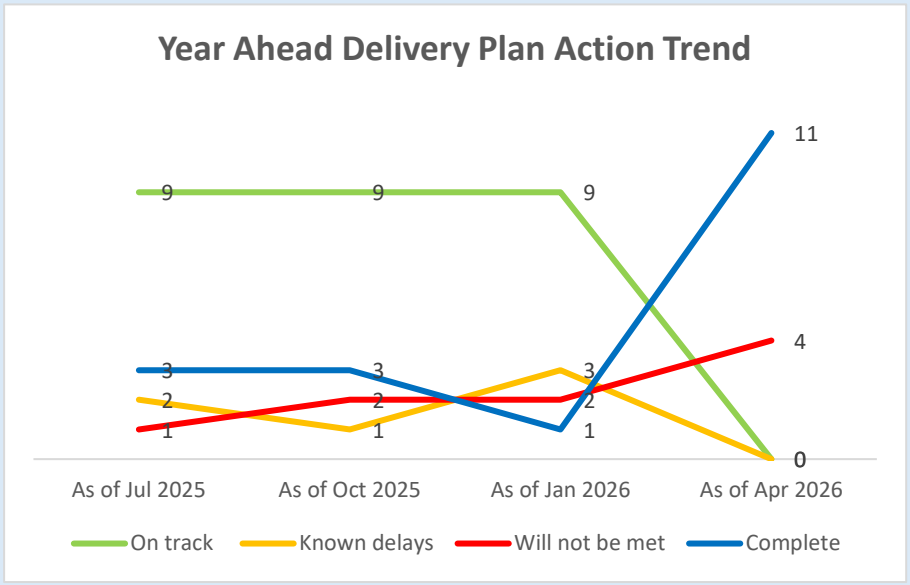
To provide evidence of delivery of the outcomes and commitments within this theme, there are 12 priorities/actions (1 action has 4 parts) and 6 performance measures contained within the Year Ahead Plan Delivery Plan. The diagrams below provide an overview of performance and progress:

Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions/milestones



Performance measures




Year Ahead Delivery Plan Action Trend
9
9
9
0
3
3
3
4
2
2
2
1
1
1
11
As of Jul 2025
As of Oct 2025
As of Jan 2026
As of Apr 2026
On track
Known delays
Will not be met
Complete

Highlights – Achievements and Challenges

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to the priority actions within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

Children and young people achieve
Achievements - Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities and Performance Measures that have been completed since Quarter 2: **C1** Delivered more than 1,000 events and activities across the 2025 festival year. **C3** Improved 4 play areas across the borough as part of the Children's Playground Programme. **C4** Submitted a bid to The Cruyff Foundation for a multi-use games area by Kimberworth Park Partnership. **C5** Delivered 1,356 youth work sessions across the borough, through community and voluntary sector organisations **C6** Delivered 141,748 free school meal vouchers to support families during the school holidays. **C9** Supported all 27 schools/colleges in Rotherham to work with the Council's Careers Consultants and South Yorkshire Careers Hub **C11** Delivered 100% of Baby Packs to eligible families in Rotherham who requested one. **C12** Provided heath visitor checks for 91% of eligible children aged 2-2.5 years old across the borough. **C14** Delivered 2,762 support sessions at Children's Centres to support families with children aged 0-5 years. **C15** Issued 78.3% of EHCPs within 20 weeks, ensuring children receive effective support when needed.
Challenges - Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities that will not be met within three months of the original target date or Performance Measures that have not achieved target within 2025/26: **C8** Throughout 2025/26, 20 pupils have been successfully trained to travel independently to school or college. Target not met due to issues with staff resources and sign-off delays. A new member of staff has been appointed and capacity has increased. **C13** 80.3% of babies born between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 2025 were registered with a Family Hub within 6 months of birth, against a target of 90% *(higher is better)*. **C16C** Submission of registration for a fifth two-bedroom children's in-house residential home has been delayed to Quarter 2 2026/27, as recruitment for a Registered Manager is still ongoing. **C16D** Submission of registration for a sixth two-bedroom children's in-house residential home has been delayed to Quarter 3 2026/27, as capital works commenced in May 2026 and are expected to be completed in September 2026.

C17 Plan the implementation of the Families First Partnership Programme and the Family Help Strategy, the comprehensive needs analysis has been undertaken and engagement activity undertaken to inform the development of the revised threshold document, which is being designed.

Narrative – the bigger picture

This theme encapsulates the Council's ambition for Rotherham to be a great place to grow up, where all children and young people are safe, valued, able to enjoy their lives and achieve their aspirations. This year has seen some landmark achievements in delivering on that ambition, not least Rotherham becoming the world's first Children's Capital of Culture in 2025. More than 1,000 events and activities were delivered across the year in collaboration with local partners, including major festivals and exhibitions, alongside an in-school creative learning programme reaching over 120 schools and colleges. The programme has been particularly focused on ensuring children from all backgrounds can participate, including through the Youth Programming Panel, Arts Award accreditation and Volunteering Schemes.

The Council's commitment to tackling child poverty has been given formal expression this year through the approval of the No Family Left Behind Strategy at Cabinet in September 2025. With 34% of Rotherham's children living in poverty, this strategy represents a significant step in harnessing Council and partner resources to improve life chances across the borough. Alongside this, food vouchers continued to be issued to all children eligible for free school meals throughout every school holiday period, ensuring that the most vulnerable families were not left without support.

Support for the very youngest residents has remained strong. Over the year, 100% of eligible families who requested a Baby Pack received one, and 91% of eligible children received their health visitor check at the 2 to 2.5-year mark. Children's Centres delivered 2,762 support sessions to families with children aged 0 to 5, and the council commissioned the voluntary and community sector to deliver 1,356 universal youth work sessions across the borough, ensuring those from harder to reach communities were included. All 27 Rotherham secondary schools and colleges have continued to work with the Council's Careers Consultants and the South Yorkshire Careers Hub on improving the quality of their careers provision against the Gatsby Benchmarks, ensuring that young people across the borough are better prepared for their futures.

Work to expand the borough's in-house residential children's homes programme has continued, with the third and fourth two-bedroom homes completing registration and opening during the year. This programme is central to the Council's commitment to keeping children in care closer to their families and communities. The completion of building work at the Eric Manns SEND centre, now occupied by the Rotherham Parent Carers Forum, is another tangible example of investment in the infrastructure that families with children with special educational needs and disabilities depend on. Play and outdoor activity areas have also seen significant investment this year, with four play areas at Chestnut Grove in Dinnington, Thrybergh Country Park, Rosehill Park and Rother Valley Country Park all having completed improvements as part of the Children's Playground Programme.

Year Ahead Delivery Plan tracker

Outcome: Children and young people achieve					
Ref	**Outcome**	**Activity**	**Timescales for delivery**	**Status**	**Rationale for status**
C1	**Ensuring children and young people to have fun things to do**	Work with children and young people across the borough to deliver events throughout the 2025 Festival Year, celebrating Rotherham becoming the world's first Children's Capital of Culture.	Quarter 3	Complete	Across the 2025 festival year, more than 1,000 events and activities have been delivered. This includes major exhibitions, festivals and events delivered in collaboration with local partners, such as House of Fun and WE Wonder (Wentworth Woodhouse), Festival of Stories (Grimm & Co), and Rotherham Winter Light Festival (Flux Rotherham). It also includes a diverse in-school creative learning programme that has worked with over 120 Rotherham schools and colleges. These have achieved a combined audience engagements of over 460,000. In addition, there have been 77,849 active participations from children, young people and adults across events, activities and in school creative learning programmes. The programme also continues to support children and young people from diverse backgrounds across programmes including the Youth Programming Panel, Arts Award accreditation and Volunteering Schemes.

C2		Replace the watersplash facility at Clifton Park.	Quarter 2	Complete	The watersplash facility at Clifton Park opened to the public on 23 July 2025 to coincide with the school holidays. A celebration event took place at the Rotherham Show and featured performances.
C3		Improve 4 play areas as part of the Children's Playground Programme.	Quarter 4	Complete	Chestnut Grove play area in Dinnington was complete in May 2025. Improvement works completed at Rosehill Park Play Area on the 6 May 2026. Works at Thrybergh Country Park were completed on 1 April 2026. Works at Rother Valley Country Park play area completed on 5 June 2026.
C4		Submit a bid to the Football Foundation in support of a new multi-use games area in the borough.	Quarter 2	Complete	The Football Foundation's second round of Expressions of Interest opened later than expected in October 2025, instead of the original date of June 2025. However, an alternative bid was submitted to The Cruyff Foundation for a multi-use games area by Kimberworth Park Partnership on 27 March 2026.
C5		Performance measure: see below			
C6	**Enable children and young people to thrive**	Provide food vouchers to children eligible for free school meals during the school holidays, in line with the package of measures agreed	Quarter 4	Complete	Delivered 141,748 of free school meal vouchers to support families during the school holidays.

		through the Household Support Fund.			
C7		Complete building work on the Special Educational Needs and Disability centre at Eric Manns and hand over to the Rotherham Parents Carers Forum.	Quarter 4	Complete	The building work is now complete, and the Rotherham Parent Carers Forum are now occupying the building and delivering services within the community.
C8		Deliver Independent Travel Training to at least 30 children and young people to increase independence, through the new Home to School Transport Policy.	Quarter 4	Will not be met	The scheme is specifically for children and young people in receipt of home-to-school transport due to a special educational need. Throughout 2025/26, 20 pupils have been successfully trained to travel independently to school or college. The target has not been achieved due to the number of pupils with complex needs who require additional support to achieve the required level of competence and confidence. A new Independent Travel Training Practitioner has been appointed, which will enhance the offer available with a view to increasing the number of pupils that can be trained in 2026/27. The Travel Training buddy hours have also been increased to extend the ability to train more pupils. Classroom sessions continue to be developed, and a school / alternative provision (AP) resource centre has been identified as a pilot. This will identify pupils suitable for independent travel training at

					an earlier stage, to generate a pipeline of pupils to undertake training.
C9		Support 27 Rotherham secondary schools and colleges, to enhance their careers provision.	Quarter 4	Complete	All 27 schools/colleges continue to work closely with the Council's Careers Consultants and the South Yorkshire Careers Hub, to achieve the revised Gatsby Benchmarks for quality careers provision. The Gatsby Benchmarks are an eight-point framework for world-class career guidance in education, outlining standards for schools, colleges, and training providers to help pupils with their future career paths, and all schools, colleges and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) are measured against them.
C10		Implement a new education case management system.	Quarter 2	Complete	Following the purchase and successful start to implementation of the new education case management system in September 2025, work is underway on data quality and migrating data. To align with the education calendar the planned go-live date for the new education case management system is Quarter 2 2026/27.
C11		Performance measures: see below			
C12					
C13					
C14					
C15					
C16a	**Keeping children and young people safe from harm**	Provide the remaining planned children's in-house residential homes to meet the needs of Rotherham children in care	Quarter 3	Complete	The Registered Manager is now in post. Registration was submitted in July 2025.

		and help make sure they stay in the borough. a. Submit registration for a **third two-bedroom home**			
C16b		b. Submit registration for a **fourth two-bedroom** home.	Quarter 3	Complete	Registration was submitted in March 2025 and the home opened in August 2025.
C16c		c. Submit registration for a **fifth two-bedroom** home.	Quarter 4	Will not be met	Recruitment for a Registered Manager is still ongoing. Registration is now scheduled for Quarter 2 2026/27 subject to successful recruitment.
C16d		d. Submit registration for a **sixth two-bedroom** home.	Quarter 4	Will not be met	Following engagement with Ward members and residents, additional due diligence was undertaken, which led to the delay in the submission of a planning application. Capital works commenced in May 2026 to be completed in September 2026. Submission of registration is now scheduled for Quarter 3 2026/27.
C17		Plan the implementation of the Families First Partnership Programme and the Family Help Strategy; undertake a comprehensive needs analysis and revise the threshold document.	Quarter 4	Will not be met	The commissioned needs assessment has been completed; the high-level technical information is being translated into an accessible version, to ensure it is meaningful and informative to those reading it. This will inform the next phase of work. Furthermore, the working groups have been held, with participation from families, practitioners and

					partners, and activity has now moved into the design phase. The Voice and Participation Lead has worked with Voluntary Sector groups, issuing small grants enabling representation from communities in Rotherham to engage in work to refresh the threshold document, ensuring the language is accessible for families to understand. The workshops have been completed and information gathered to inform the new design. The new document is in the design phase, with work also being undertaken to embed short scenario based video clips, to assist families understanding. This is due to be completed in Quarter 2 2026/27. All recruitment to the Transformation Programme Team is complete with Education, Health and Police roles now in post. An update on the progress of the Families First Programme was presented to Cabinet on 16th March 2026.
C18		Publish a No Family Left Behind *(Rotherham's Commitment to Addressing Child Poverty)* Strategy, championing initiatives and aligning stakeholders to address child poverty.	Quarter 2	Complete	The strategy was approved and published at Cabinet on 15 September 2025.

Performance measures

Ref	Measure	Good Performance	2024/25 Year End	Target (If Applicable)	Q1 (Apr-Jun)	Q2 (Jul-Sep)	Q3 (Oct-Dec)	Q4 (Jan-Mar)	Year End	Progress Update	Rag Rating
C5	Commission the voluntary and community sector to deliver 850+ universal youth work sessions so that young people have access to activities across the borough.	High	1120	850	366	275	358	357	1356	366 sessions delivered in Quarter 1 2025/26. 275 sessions delivered in Quarter 2 2025/26. 358 sessions delivered in Quarter 3 2025/26. **357** sessions delivered in Quarter 4 2025/26. This equates to 1356 sessions for 2025/26 across 2025/26. *Although care is taken to ensure data is as accurate as possible each quarter, delays in data input can result in changes in figures when reports are re-run retrospectively each quarter.*	

C11	Deliver 100% of Baby Packs to eligible Rotherham Families who have requested one.	High	n/a	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100% eligible families who have requested a Baby Pack have received one throughout 2025/26.	
C12	Provide health visitor checks to at least 85% of eligible children for their 2-2.5yr checks.	High	91%	85%	92%	92%	91%	91%	91%	91% of eligible children have received their 2 - 2 1/2-year check in Quarter 4 2025/26.	
C13	Continue to deliver high quality services across the Family Hubs network, ensure that at least 90% of families register their children within 6 months of birth.	High	90%	90%	84.2%	74%	73.8%	87.9%	80.3% cumulative annual out-turn	Data shows that since November 2025 there has been a steady increase in the numbers of children registered within 6 months of birth. The cumulative annual outturn shows that 80.3% of babies born between 1st October 2024 and 30 September 2025 were registered with a Family Hub within 6 months of birth, which falls short of the 90%	

										target, however in March 2026, 90.7% of babies were registered within 6 months of birth, achieving the 90% target in that month. Current performance has been affected by some families refusing to register and/or moving out of the area.	
C14	Children's Centres to deliver 1900+ support sessions to families with children aged 0-5 years.	High	n/a	1900	854	657	703	548	2,762	2,762 (854 Q1, 657 Q2, 703 Q3 and 548 Q4) sessions delivered to children aged 0-5 and their families.	
C15	Issue 73% of Education, Health and Care Plans within 20 weeks ensuring children receive effective	High	72.7%	73%	85.8% (Q4)	81% (Q1)	81.3% (Q2)	78.3%* (Q3)	78.3% (Data runs Jan-Dec 2025)	Measure is reported 1st January to 31st December in line with DfE reporting. As such the annual figure for this measure concluded in December 2025, which is Rotherham Council's Q3 reporting period.	

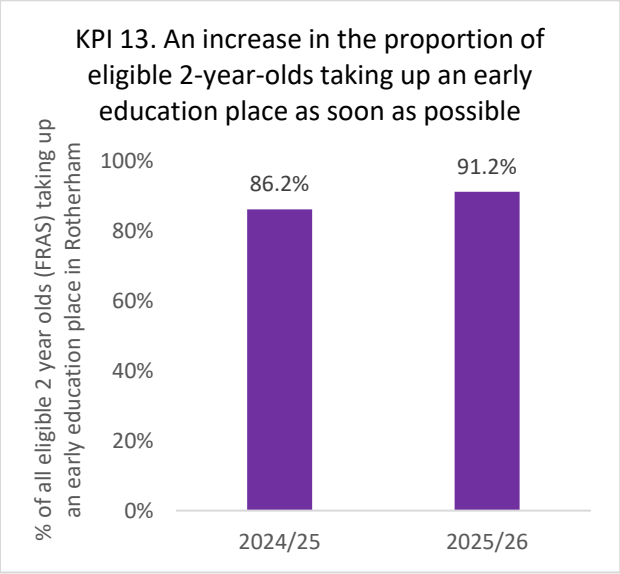
	support when needed.										

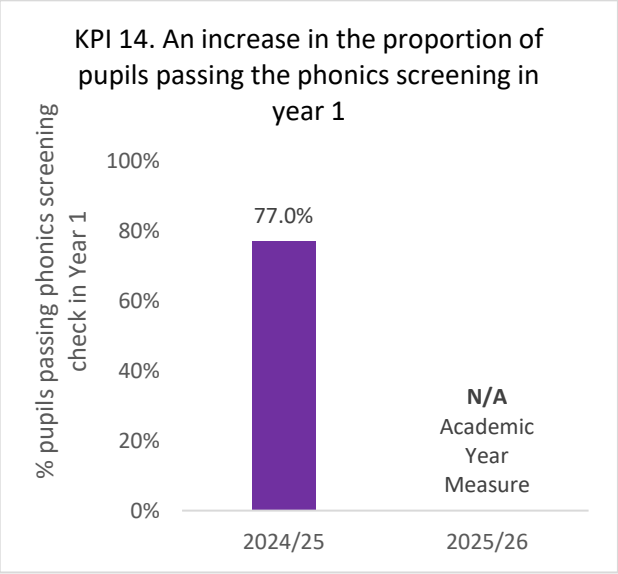
Long-term measures of success

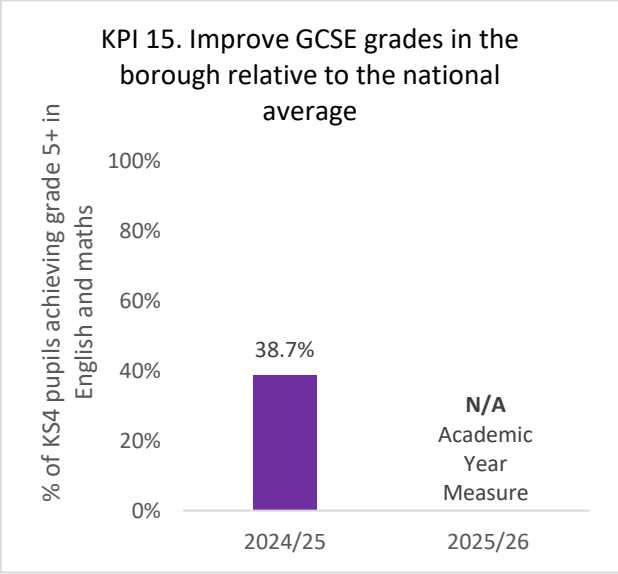
The annual long-term measures for this theme show a positive overall picture, with improvements across a range of indicators relating to early education, inclusion, and outcomes for children in care.

On this page, data shows the proportion of eligible two-year-olds taking up an early education place has risen from 86.2% to 91.2%. The strong performance in this area is due to a number of measures which are proactively taken to raise awareness, encourage take-up and ensure families are recorded on the correct eligibility code. These include; proactive engagement through family hubs, integrating early education within children's social care processes, follow-up with eligible children not in a place, ensuring children access the correct entitlement, and ongoing monitoring and sharing of data with relevant parties.

The data on phonics screening and GCSE attainment will be reported once the relevant data is available.





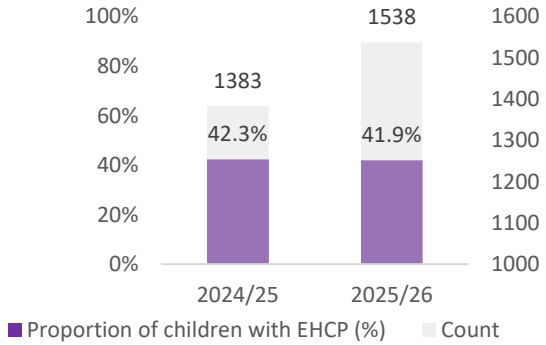


The number of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) educated in mainstream primary and secondary settings has grown from 1,383 to 1,538, though the overall proportion has slightly decreased as the total EHCP population has grown from 3,623 to 4,062. This reflects both rising demand and a deliberate shift in the system towards resourced provision attached to mainstream schools, which has seen a 29% increase in children supported in this way.

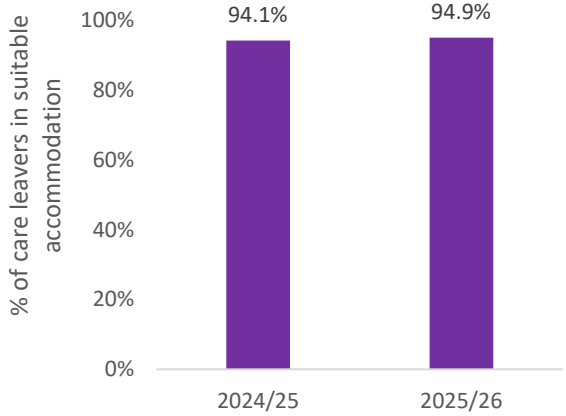
For children in care and care leavers, performance has improved. 94.9% of care leavers are in suitable accommodation, up from 94.1% last year and a priority area the Council is committed to improving further.

The proportion of children in care living within 20 miles of home has risen from 78.2% to 81.7%. This has been in part due to a strong governance arrangement for children and young people in care who are living outside the local area. The focus has been to review care planning arrangements for children in care and support them, if aligned to their care plan, to return to Rotherham. This has been done in conjunction with increasing placement sufficiency and correlates to the work done to increase local in-house residential and fostering capacity.

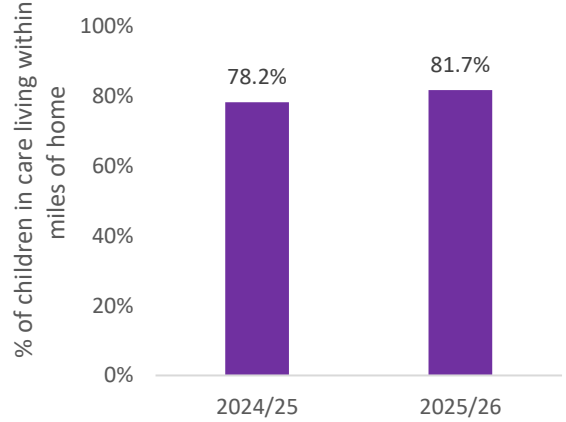
KPI 16. An increase in the number of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan in mainstream schools



KPI 17. Maintain the number of suitable homes that are available for care leavers



KPI 18. An increase in the proportion of children in care living within 20 miles of home



Case studies

Engaging dads and male carers with the Family Hubs programme

Across Rotherham, Family Hubs play an important role in helping children reach their full potential. Designed to be welcoming and inclusive, they provide high-quality early learning environments where children can safely play, explore, interact, and develop social, physical, and communication skills alongside their parents and carers.

Significant efforts have been made to encourage dads and male carers to attend Family Hubs, helping to ensure that all family members feel supported and included.

Positive Impact on Families

Feedback from families continues to highlight the positive difference Family Hubs make to children's learning, development and family wellbeing.

Marcus, who regularly attends the Aston Stay and Play group with his son, shared how access to a larger play space has allowed his son to explore more freely. This has supported his physical development and early social skills by interacting with other children. Marcus has also made good use of additional support services available at the hub, including the self-weighing service, helping him stay informed about his son's growth and development.

Adam, who attends sessions with his daughter, described the benefits for both of them. He has seen her confidence, social interaction, and sharing skills improve, which he feels are particularly important as she is an only child. The sessions have given her opportunities to try new activities such as arts and crafts in a supportive environment. Attending these sessions has also had a positive impact on his own wellbeing. It has helped reduce feelings of isolation and provided valuable opportunities to meet other parents, share experiences, and offer mutual support and reassurance.

Figure 3 - Marcus and Reid, Aston Stay and Play group

Dads and male carers tell us what makes these sessions successful is the welcoming atmosphere, inclusive staff approach, and varied activities that support children's development such as free play, outdoor experiences and singing.

Families can find out more about the support available by visiting: www.rotherham.gov.uk/family-hubs

Free Early Learning for 2-Year-Olds

Across Rotherham, Free Early Learning for 2 Year Olds plays an important role in supporting children's development and preparing them for school. The programme offers up to 15 hours of funded early education each week for eligible children, providing access to high-quality learning environments delivered by Ofsted-registered nurseries, pre-schools, childminders, and a number of schools in Rotherham.

Designed to be inclusive and accessible, the offer supports children's early development while helping families connect with wider services that promote wellbeing and positive outcomes.

Rotherham has achieved a high level of participation, with 92.3% of eligible children taking up their place in Spring 2026. This is significantly above national and regional averages and reflects a strong, coordinated approach across services and partners.

Supporting Families to Access Early Learning

A number of approaches have been put in place to ensure that eligible children are identified early and supported to access the right provision.

Children are routinely identified and checked to confirm their eligibility, helping to ensure they receive the most appropriate entitlement at the right time. This early identification supports both improved outcomes for children and the accuracy of local data.

Families are actively encouraged to take up their place through proactive engagement. Working closely with Best Start in Life Family Hubs, staff contact eligible families directly and offer practical support. Outreach workers provide face-to-face guidance, including home visits, helping parents and carers understand the benefits of early education, address any concerns, and complete applications.

Strong partnership working with Children's Social Care further strengthens this approach. Early education is embedded within social care processes, with regular data sharing used to identify children who are eligible but not yet attending. Social workers support families to access provision as part of wider planning, and where needed, programmes such as PEEP (Learning Through Play) provide a stepping-stone where needed.

Families who have not yet taken up a place are contacted regularly to understand and address any barriers. This personalised follow-up ensures that support is tailored to individual circumstances and that no child misses out on the opportunities available.

Making a Positive Difference

This coordinated approach continues to make a positive difference for children and families across Rotherham. By identifying children early, engaging families proactively, and working in partnership across services, more children are able to benefit from high-quality early learning experiences.

Pirate's Treasure
Big book Big Ships

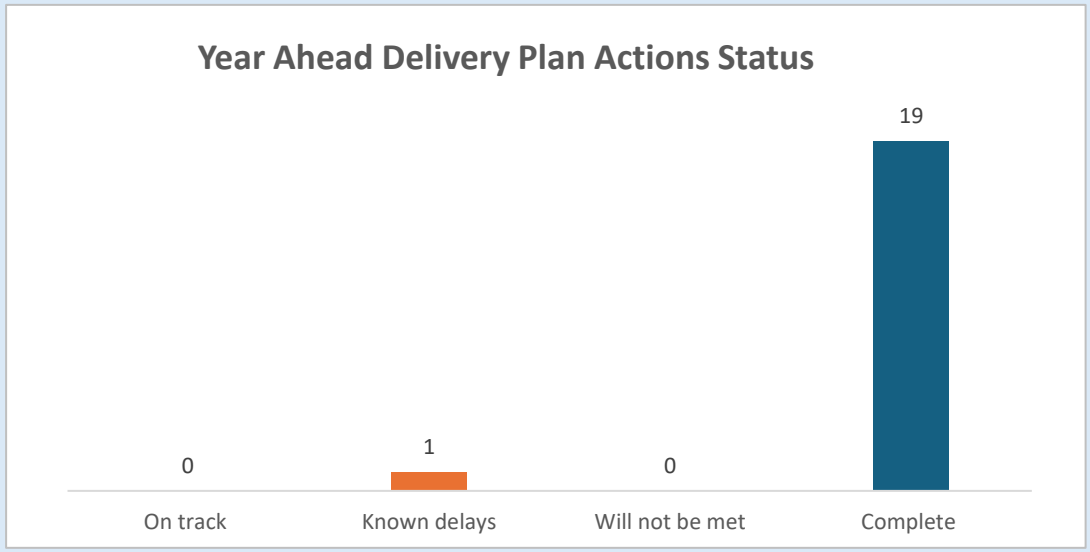
Outcome: Residents live well		
Priorities	**The differences you are seeing in the first year of the Council Plan**	**The differences you will see in 2026/27**
Better physical and mental wellbeing	• Provided 8,624 NHS health checks for Rotherham residents. • An Active Hub (Every Move Counts) has been supporting patients to access physical activity opportunities since July 2025. • Started works in January 2026 on the first phase of a Health Hub to provide health-based services in the town centre.	• Continued delivery of NHS Health Checks for Rotherham residents, with a further 8,500 health checks provided during 2026/27. • Introduction of a pilot half-price swimming offer for residents aged over 65 across leisure centres in Aston, Maltby, Rotherham and Wath. • Complete construction works for Health Hub phase 1.
Assisting people to live independent, safe and well.	• Rothercare has been live since April 2025 in collaboration with Mediquip delivering a wide range of equipment. • Completed works for Castle View Day Service which will provide new day opportunities for people with high support needs. The centre opened in June 2026. • The Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme has been delivered for 2025/26 with the discount applied to all Council Tax Support claimants.	• Improved access to adult social care support through the introduction of an online self-assessment tool, empowering people in their adult social care journey. • Launch of Thrive at Castle View, providing new day opportunities to support people with complex care and support needs closer to home. • Delivery of the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up Scheme for working households receiving council tax support, alongside a Crisis Support Scheme providing one-off financial support for residents experiencing financial difficulty.

Good quality, affordable homes for all.	• By the end of Quarter 4, 788 new council homes had been delivered against the target of 1,000 by 2027. • Expanded the Council's temporary accommodation portfolio to 173 homes. • A total of 85 homes have been delivered through the acquisitions workstream throughout 2025/26.	• Continued delivery of the Council's commitment to providing 1,000 new council homes, alongside improvements to the quality of existing Council homes. • At least 35 long-term private sector empty homes brought back into use through Council support and intervention. • Delivery of 101 new Council homes through acquisitions from private sector housebuilders and the open market, alongside new homes developed through the Council's Small Sites Homebuilding Initiative.

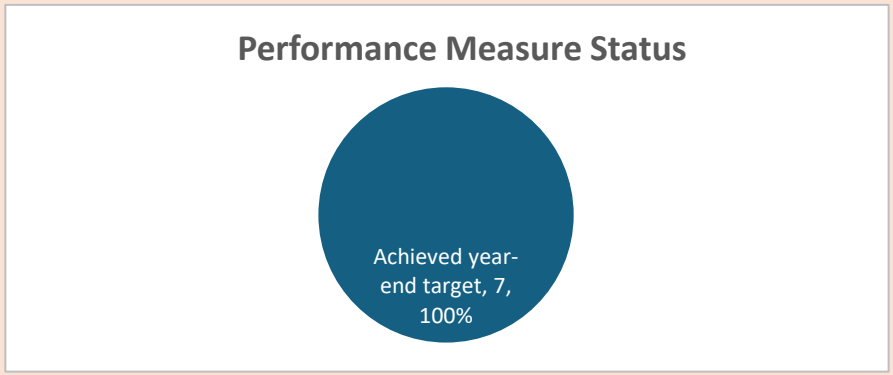
Headlines – evidencing our progress

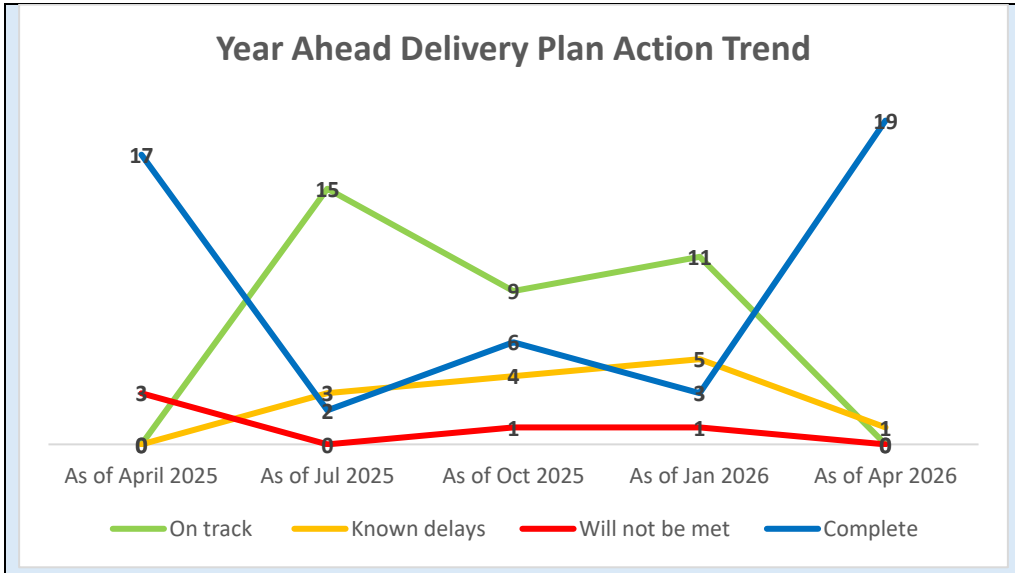
To provide evidence of delivery of the outcomes and commitments within this theme, there are 13 priorities/actions (1 action has multiple parts) and 7 performance measures contained within the Year Ahead Plan Delivery Plan. The diagrams below provide an overview of performance and progress:

Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions/milestones



Performance measures





Highlights – Achievements and Challenges

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to the priority actions within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

Residents live well
Achievements - Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities and Performance Measures that have been completed since Quarter 2: **R1** Commissioned an Active Hub (Every Move Counts) to support people with long-term health conditions to access physical activity opportunities. **R3** Provided 8,624 NHS Heath Checks for Rotherham residents. **R4** Supported 1,494 Rotherham residents to set a Quit Date, as part of the ambition for a Smoke Free Rotherham. **R5** Completed building works, and opened Castle View Day Service, which will provide new day opportunities for people with high support needs. **R8** Agreed an updated Domestic Abuse Strategy to continue to improve the support available to victims.

R9 Delivered the Learning Disabilities Strategy priorities for 2025 and increased capacity to support up to 100 additional residents with Learning Disability and Autism at any one time.
R10 Delivered the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme, providing up to £126 to working households in receipt of council tax support.
R11 Ensured 84% of Domestic Abuse referrals were actively engaged in and support offered, even as demand has increased compared to Quarter 4 or 2024/25.
R12 Ensured that 98.14% of new Housing Benefits and Council Tax Support claims are dealt with within 14 days of receipt.
R13 Completed the Council new build project at Warden Street, Canklow.
R14a Completed the Council new build project at Albert Road and Princess Street.
R14b Completed the Council new build project at the Former Ship Inn Site, Swinton.
R14e Started groundwork on new homes at Wath.
R14g Delivered 85 new Council homes through acquisition either from private sector housebuilders or direct from the open market.
R14h Brought 36 long term empty homes back into use through Council support.
R17 Completed 6,490 full stock condition surveys throughout 2025/26.
R18 Expanded the Council's temporary accommodation portfolio to 173 homes.
R19 Ensured that 95.4% of council housing repairs were completed 'Right 1st time'.
R20 Ensured that 61.1% of council homes have ab EPC C and above energy performance rating.

Challenges - Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities that will not be met within three months of the original target date or Performance Measures that have not achieved target within 2025/26:

R14d Groundwork is due to commence on new homes at Eastwood in Quarter 1 2026/27.

Narrative – the bigger picture

The 'Residents Live Well' outcome focusses on ensuring better physical and mental wellbeing, enabling people to live independently, safely and well, and providing access to good quality, affordable homes.

The Active Hub (Every Move Counts), launched in July 2025, has continued to support residents with long-term health conditions to access physical activity and improve their wellbeing. Alongside this, a range of initiatives have strengthened resident independence and safety. The Castle View Day Service building was completed in May and opened in June 2026. The Rothercare analogue to digital switchover was also completed for over 5,000 residents ahead of the January 2027 national deadline. Broader support was reinforced through the refreshed Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026/27–2028/29, approved in April 2026, focused on improving victim support and tackling perpetrators.

Progress has also continued in supporting inclusion, employment, and financial resilience. Delivery of Learning Disability Strategy priorities has accelerated, with additional supported employment funding from September 2025 helping over 50 residents into employment-related activity. Governance has been strengthened through the relaunch of the Learning Disability Partnership Board and the creation of a dedicated voice forum to embed lived experience. Financial support has been maintained through the Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme, assisting eligible households throughout the year.

Significant progress has been made in housing delivery and policy implementation. A number of developments were completed in the second half of 2025/26, including Warden Street (completed Quarter 4, awaiting allocation) and schemes at Albert Road, Princess Street, and the former Ship Inn site in Swinton (completed and let in Quarter 3). Other sites progressed, with groundworks starting at Maltby in Quarter 2 and developments at Wath and West Melton advancing to site, while Eastwood is due to start on site in Quarter 1 2026/27. The Council exceeded its acquisitions target, delivering 85 new homes, and brought 36 long-term empty properties back into use by year end. Key policy measures included the launch of the Selective Licensing scheme in February 2026 and implementation of the new Housing Allocations Policy from December 2025. 6,490 stock condition surveys were completed against a target of 6,000, improving insight into housing stock and informing future investment.

Year Ahead Delivery Plan tracker

Outcome: Residents live well					
Ref	**Outcome**	**Activity**	**Timescales for delivery**	**Status**	**Rationale for status**
R1	**Better physical and mental wellbeing**	Commission an Active Hub to establish referral support for people with long-term health conditions to access physical activity opportunities.	Quarter 3	Complete	Active Hub (Every Move Counts) is commissioned and being delivered by Rotherham Connect Healthcare Community Interest Company (CIC). The programme continues to have a phased roll out with patients supported by health coaches to access physical activity opportunities. Hub has been established and accepting referrals since July 2025.
R2		Launch a specialised support service for people who have attempted suicide.	Quarter 1	Complete	The specialised support for people who have attempted suicide launched in April 2025 and is accepting referrals.
R3		Performance measures: see below			
R4					
R5	**Assisting people to live independent, safe and well**	Complete the building work for Castle View Day Service which will provide new day opportunities for people with high support needs.	Quarter 4	Complete	Building works for Castle View Day Service were completed in May. The service is now operational, following a successfully delivered and carefully managed phased transition that maintained continuity of care for individuals with high support needs. The formal opening on 11 June 2026 marks a significant milestone in strengthening high-quality local provision and increasing system capacity.

R6		Deliver the Rothercare analogue to digital switchover for over 5,000 residents.	Quarter 3	Complete	The switchover has been fully completed. Delivery is ahead of the national January 2027 deadline.
R7		Launch a new technology service that will provide a broader range of equipment to enable people to remaining living at home for as long as possible.	Quarter 1	Complete	New Technology Offer went live on 1 April 2025. Rothercare are now working in collaboration with Mediquip to deliver a wider range of equipment.
R8		Agree an updated Domestic Abuse Strategy to continue to improve the support available to victims and the actions taken to address perpetrators of violence and abuse.	Quarter 4	Complete	The refreshed Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026/27-2028/29 was approved by the Safer Rotherham Partnership and endorsed by Cabinet on 13 April 2026. The refreshed strategy will continue to improve the support available to victims and the actions taken to address perpetrators of violence and abuse. Regular oversight of the Strategy will be undertaken by the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board and the Improving Lives Select Committee.
R9		Deliver the Learning Disability Strategy priorities for 2025, which will include a new transition pathway for young people preparing for adulthood, increasing the number of young people accessing employment opportunities and embedding the voice of the young person	Quarter 4	Complete	Additional funding for Supported Employment commenced in September 2025, increasing capacity to support up to 100 additional residents with Learning Disability and Autism at any one time. This funding, provided through SYMCA and the Department for Work and Pensions as part of the Get Britain Working programme, has already supported over 50 residents into employment-related activity.

		in their care and support journey.			Governance and oversight of the Learning Disability Strategy have been strengthened through the relaunch of the Learning Disability Partnership Board, which will monitor progress against agreed priorities. A dedicated voice forum, facilitated by Speak Up advocacy, has been established to capture lived experience and inform ongoing delivery. The Preparing for Adulthood programme continues to embed the voice of young people across all workstreams, with targeted engagement undertaken through the Guiding Voices group to shape service development and improve transition experiences.
R10		Deliver the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme, providing up to £126 to working households in receipt of council tax support.	Quarter 4	Complete	The scheme has been delivered for 2025/26 with the discount applied to all Council Tax Support claimants. The scheme was kept live during the year as claimants can move in and out of eligibility and new claimants may come forward during the year as their circumstances change.
R11		Performance measures: see below			
R12					
R13	**Good quality, affordable homes for all**	Continue the delivery of our ambitious Council Homes Delivery Programme:	Quarter 3	Complete	All homes were completed in Quarter 4 2025/26. These homes have been advertised and are awaiting allocation.

		Complete the Council new build project at Warden Street, Canklow.			
R14a		Complete the Council new build project at Albert Road and Princess Street.	Quarter 3	Complete	All homes were completed and let within Quarter 3 2025/26.
R14b		Complete the Council new build project at the Former Ship Inn Site, Swinton.	Quarter 3	Complete	All homes were completed and let within Quarter 3 2025/26.
R14c		Start groundwork on new homes at Maltby.	Quarter 2	Complete	Groundworks on these new homes has started. A spade in the ground event was held on 26 September 2025.
R14d		Start groundwork on new homes at Eastwood.	Quarter 4	Known delays	Start on site is now expected to take place in Quarter 1 2026/27.
R14e		Start groundwork on new homes at Wath.	Quarter 3	Complete	Scheme started on site in Quarter 4 2025/26.
R14f		Start groundwork on former Albert Club, West Melton.	Quarter 1	Complete	Scheme started on site in June 2025.
R14g		Deliver 75 new Council homes through acquisition either from private sector housebuilders (through planning obligations) or direct from the open market.	Quarter 4	Complete	A total of 85 homes have been delivered through the acquisitions workstream throughout 2025/26. These homes were acquired from private sector housebuilders (through planning obligations) or direct from the open market.
R14h		Bring at least 30 long term empty homes back into use through Council support.	Quarter 4	Complete	At year-end 2025/26, 36 empty homes have been brought back into use.
R15		Develop proposals in relation to Selective Licensing which seek to protect private tenants, support landlords and improve housing conditions within the Borough.	Quarter 2	Complete	The Cabinet approved the Selective Licensing Report on 20 October 2025, which included consultation feedback and recommendations to move forward with additional designations. This decision was reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), which

					confirmed the Cabinet's decision. This action is now complete. After a mandated 3-month period, the scheme commenced in February 2026.
R16		Agree a new Housing Allocations Policy.	Quarter 3	Complete	Cabinet agreed the new Housing Allocations Policy on 15 September 2025. The Policy went live on 1 December 2025. An Implementation Plan is in place to support this and the management of IT changes alongside resident communication.
R17		Complete full stock condition surveys to 6,000 properties.	Quarter 4	Complete	Throughout 2025/26, 6,490 full stock condition surveys were completed.
R18		Performance measure: see below			
R19					
R20					

Performance measures

Ref	Measure	Good Performance	2024/25 Year End	Target (If Applicable)	Q1 (Apr-Jun)	Q2 (Jul-Sep)	Q3 (Oct-Dec)	Q4 (Jan-Mar)	Year End	Progress Update	Rag Rating
R3	Provide 8,500 NHS Health Checks for Rotherham Residents.	High	7673	8,500	2,325	1,950	6,457	8,624	8,624	Quarter 1 – 2,325 (target of 2,125 Q1) Health Checks have been delivered to Rotherham residents; the service is on target. Quarter 2 – 4,275 (target of 4,250 Q2) Health Checks have been delivered to Rotherham residents; the service is on target. Quarter 3 – 6,457 (target of 6,375 Q3) Health Checks have been delivered to Rotherham residents; the service is on target. Quarter 4 – 8,624 (target of 8,500 Q4) Health Checks have been delivered to Rotherham	

										residents; the service is on target.	
R4	Support the Rotherham Ambition for a Smoke Free Rotherham by supporting 1,000 Rotherham residents to set a Quit Date.	High	1,176	1,000	270	402	254	568	1,494	Quarter 1 - 270 (target of 250 Q1) Rotherham residents have been supported to set a quit date; the service is on target. Quarter 2 - 672 (target of 500 Q2) Rotherham residents have been supported to set a quit date; the service is on target. Quarter 3 - 926 (target of 750 Q3) Rotherham residents have been supported to set a quit date; the service is on target. Quarter 4 – 1,494 (target of 1000 Q4) Rotherham residents have been supported to set a quit date; the service is on target	

R11	Ensure that a minimum of 70% of Domestic Abuse referrals are actively engaged in any support offered.	High	n/a	>70%	74%	85%	75%	84%	n/a	The number of referrals to Domestic Abuse Support Service in Quarter 4 (948) has increased by 50 when compared to Quarter 3 (898). This is also an increase when compared to Quarter 4 2024/25 by 62 incidents. The Domestic Abuse engagement rate has seen an increase of 8% when compared with Quarter 3 (75%) and a 24% increase when compared with Quarter 4 (59%) 24/25.	
R12	Increase the proportion of new claims for Housing Benefits and Council Tax Support are dealt with within 14 days of receipt of all necessary	High	98.4 %	98%	98.56 %	98.59 %	98.43 %	98.14 %	98.14 %	The service has ensured that 98% or more claims for Housing Benefits and Council Tax Support are being dealt with within 14 days of receipt of all necessary information. At year end 2025/26, the rate was 98.14%.	

	information to 98%.										
R18	Expand the Council's temporary accommodation portfolio to at least 173 homes	High	160	173	167	173	*	*	n/a	The portfolio consisted of 173 properties at Quarter 2 (service deadline).	
R19	Maintain the proportion of council housing repairs completed 'Right 1st time' to achieve at least 93%.	High	94.5 %	>93%	95.2 %	95.7 %	95.7 %	95.4 %	95.4%	Performance in Quarter 1 25/26 was 95.2%. Performance in Quarter 2 25/26 was 95.7%. Performance in Quarter 3 25/26 was 95.7%. Performance in Quarter 4 25/26 was 95.4%. The year-end performance for right first time is 95.4%.	

R20	50% of council homes to have an EPC C energy performance rating.	High	58%	50%	59.2 %	60.6 %	60.9 %	61.1 %	61.1%	The year-end proportion of council housing with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated C and above is 61.1%. A programme is being developed to deliver the warmer homes funding to improve energy efficiency of circa 1,100 properties over the next three years.	

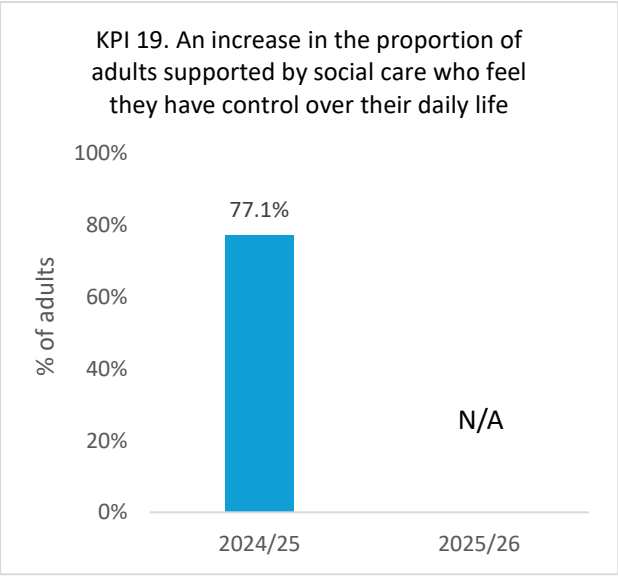
Long-term measures of success

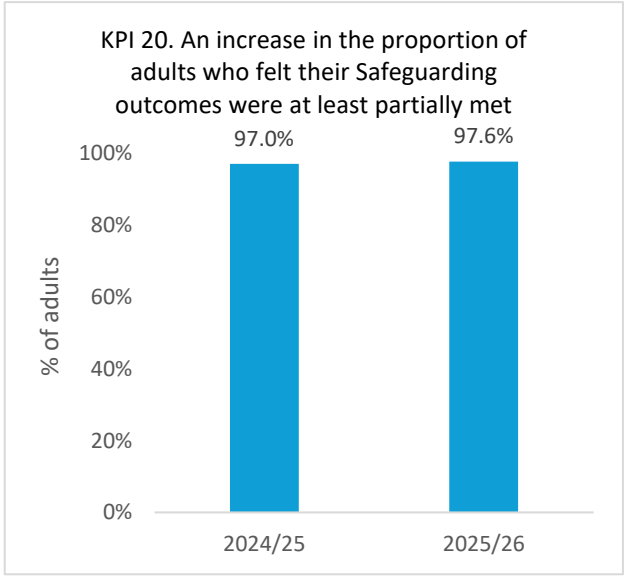
The annual long-term measures for the Residents Live Well theme reflect sustained performance in safeguarding and housing, with data on some measures still outstanding pending national publication.

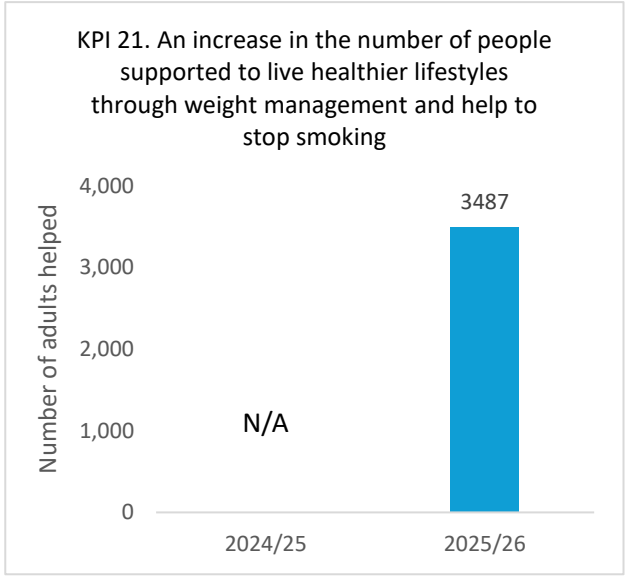
On adult safeguarding, the Council achieved 97.6% effectiveness in meeting adults' desired outcomes by year end, building on last year's strong performance. The reflects the Council's 'Making Safeguarding Personal' approach, which ensures safeguarding practice is person-centred and outcome-focussed.

In total, the Council delivered 3,487 smoking cessation and adult weight management interventions over the year, supporting residents to live more healthy lives.

Results from the Adult Social Care Survey, which will inform the measure of how many adults supported by social care feel they have control over their daily lives (KPI 19), are scheduled for publication by the Department for Health and Social Care in Autumn 2026.



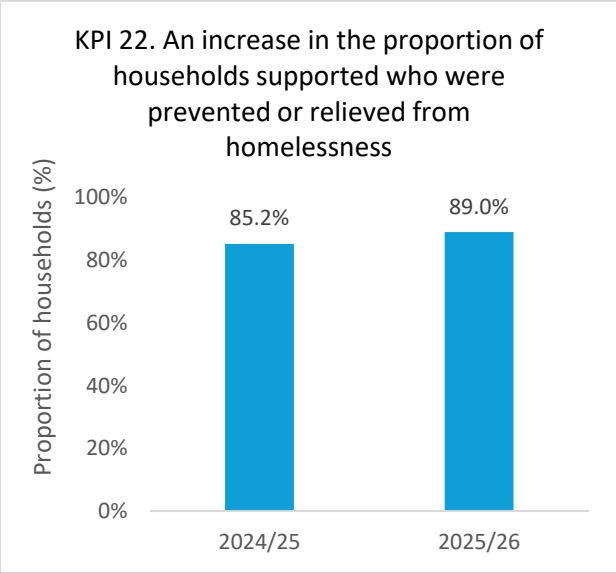


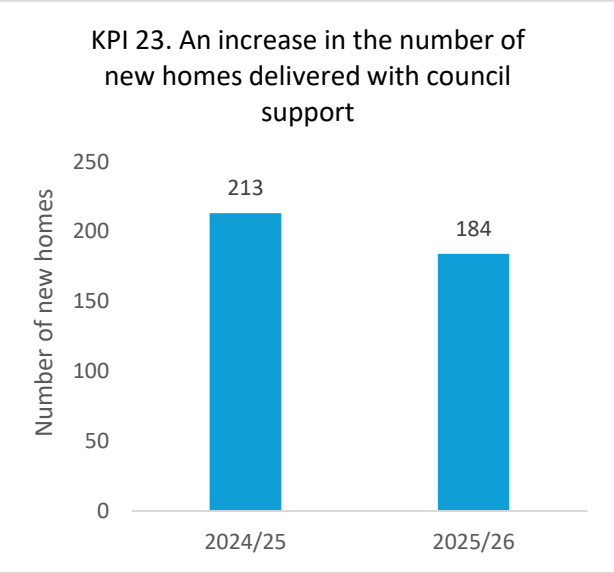


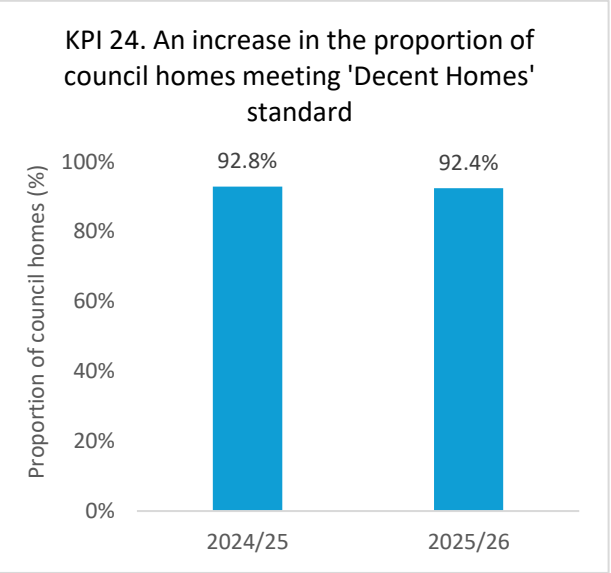
In housing, 89% of households supported were prevented or relieved from homelessness, exceeding the 85% set in the previous year. This is a strong result given continuing pressures on the housing market and increasing complexity of demand.

184 new homes were delivered with Council support during the year, 114 were delivered directly by the Council, and a further 70 enabled through Council support including 36 empty private sector properties brought back into use. While this is below the 213 homes delivered in 2024/25, the reduction reflects a smaller planned programme of 100 direct Council homes in 2025/26 compared to 150 the previous year. With 150 Council homes planned for 2026/27 including completions at the Maltby and Wath direct build sites, the Council expects this year's figure to be met or exceeded.

Finally, there was a slight drop in the proportion of council homes that met the 'Decent Homes' standard since last year. The aim remains to increase the proportion of council homes meeting the Decent Homes Standard, however, performance can be influenced by a range of factors. In 2025, Housing Services began a three-year programme to survey all properties to assess their condition and identify hazards. Within the first year, 6,490 surveys were completed, this is likely to impact the overall level of decency, as more issues are identified through the survey process. Despite this, it is positive to note that the proportion of homes meeting the Decent Homes Standard has only decreased marginally, by 0.4% compared to the previous year.







Case studies

Canklow, Warden Street

Warden Street / Castle Avenue in Canklow is a joint venture between housing and adult social care. The scheme provides 15 new Council homes, comprising a mix of general needs, specialist accommodation, and a purpose-built Day Care Centre. The development includes 13 two-bedroom apartments for older people, designed to support ageing in place, alongside one two-bedroom Disabled Person apartment for households requiring enhanced accessibility. A key feature of the development is the provision of a four-bedroom accessible bungalow, an accommodation type that is in particularly high demand. This property type is critical in supporting independence for families with acute needs and was specifically designed to meet the requirements of larger households requiring a fully accessible, bungalow-style home. The design enables flexibility, dignity, and long-term sustainability for families where one or more members have significant health or mobility needs.

The importance of delivering this type of home was evidenced through a previously completed four-bedroom bungalow in East Herringthorpe, which supported a family with acute health needs. Feedback from the resident highlighted the transformational impact of accessible, appropriately designed housing; “This home has changed everything. I can now move around freely and no longer feel embarrassed having visitors. It’s given my children their childhood back”.

Identification of need:

Housing Intelligence was used to inform the business case and shape the development by identifying clear gaps in local provision. At the time, there were no two-bedroom council-rent apartments in the ward and no two or three-bedroom bungalows in Canklow, with limited bungalow supply across the wider Boston Castle Ward. Housing Register data showed significant levels of medical (13%) and ground-floor (9%) need, alongside a trend of under-occupancy within existing stock. This evidenced the need for a new, accessible housing offer that could better meet diverse needs and encourage downsizing. Downsizing supports tenants through improved suitability, accessibility and reduced living costs, while also enabling better use of social housing stock. In line with Rotherham’s Allocations Policy, which prioritises downsizers, and recognising the borough’s ageing population, the decision was made to age-restrict the properties.

Impact:

Feedback has been gathered from tenants residing in the new homes at Canklow Warden Street to understand their initial experiences and the impact of the properties on their daily lives. Overall, responses have been highly positive. Tenants described the homes as “spacious and modern” and noted that living there has been “very enjoyable.”

One tenant highlighted a significant improvement in their circumstances, explaining that they had previously lived in shared accommodation but are now able to have their children stay with them more regularly as a result of having their own home.

Across the feedback, tenants consistently expressed satisfaction with both the space and the design of their new properties, indicating that the development has positively contributed to their quality of life.

Stop Smoking case study

Scott, from Rotherham, started smoking when he was 17. What began as curiosity - watching friends and family smoke - soon became a 25-year addiction. Last year he quit smoking with help from his local stop smoking service, showing that it is never too late to quit. *"I grew up around smoking. My mum smoked, my grandad smoked, and most of my friends smoked. I always wondered why, and eventually my curiosity got the better of me. That's why I tried my first cigarette. Before I knew it, smoking was part of my routine and part of my identity. Smoking was easy for me – I've always worked outside, so I didn't have to wait for breaks - I could smoke whenever I wanted. It was easy for me to smoke 20 to 25 cigarettes a day."*

Scott, who turns 50 next month, knows first-hand the harm smoking can cause. His mum was diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in her 50s and sadly passed away around 20 years later. *"I watched my mum die from COPD which was caused by smoking. She struggled a lot and it wasn't nice to see. I didn't want my kids to go through that. I didn't want them - or my grandkids - to see me that way, or for me not to be around for them. Smoking started taking its toll on my health soon after. I was always coughing – sometimes so hard I nearly blacked out. I've even broken ribs from it. I'm currently being assessed for bronchitis, and I knew continuing to smoke could lead to COPD. That's when it really hit me - I had to do something if I wanted to be there for my family."*

Like most people who quit, Scott had tried to quit before. *"During COVID, I tried using my local stop smoking service, but it was all over the phone. I was given patches, but they didn't work for me. At work, I'd end up asking the lads for a cigarette, and before I knew it, I was back smoking. "Last year, I went back to the service but this time I used Varenicline. My advisor, young Sam, was brilliant from the start. We got on well and those appointments kept me accountable. I knew he'd be checking my CO [carbon monoxide] levels, and I didn't want to let him down."*

Since quitting, Scott has experienced an improvement in his health and daily life. *"My lungs have cleared up a lot, and I feel so much healthier. But it's more than that - I am so much more present. I don't have to stop games halfway through to go outside to smoke, I don't leave the table when we're at a restaurant for a family birthday, and I don't have to delay playing games with my grandkids to have a cigarette first. You don't realise how much time you spend in the garden until you get that time back." Scott is encouraging others to quit smoking too. "My attitude used to be that stopping was for quitters – I was stubborn when it came to quitting and I didn't like people telling me what to do. "Now all I can say is that I was wrong. Quitting is, not to be cheesy, but it is*

lifechanging – it changes how I behave, how I spend my time and the quality of my life. “It’s not as hard as you think - especially with the right support. Take advantage of the help that’s out there and just give it a go.”

Social Care Measures

This new set of 12 measures will reflect how effectively the Council is delivering services that support vulnerable children and adults, including those in residential care and carers. They focus on key areas such as independence, access to support, and safeguarding, and will be used to track progress and drive improvement across social care services.

Ref	Measure	Good Performance	2024/25 Year End	Target (If Applicable)	Q1 (Apr-Jun)	Q2 (Jul-Sep)	Q3 (Oct-Dec)	Q4 (Jan-Mar)	Year End	Progress Update	Rag Rating
SC1	Proportion of adults with social care support, remaining at home.	High	72.78% (2821)	N/A	72.6% (2869)	72.5% (2874)	73.3% (2939)	73.6% (2878)	73.6% (2878)	Performance remains positive with a high proportion of adults with social care support continuing to live independently in their own homes, reflecting the effectiveness of prevention, enablement and community-based support.	

SC2	Number of new admissions to residential care homes for older people as a rate per 100K population.	Low (in line with Peers)	581.40	616.02	151.20	156.80	126.94	93.82	520.63	The Better Care Fund target for 2025–26 is to reduce the number of older people admitted to residential care to no more than 330 admissions over the year, equivalent to a population rate of 607.18 per 100,000. Reporting for this measure has transitioned to the national Client Level Dataset (CLD) definition for long-term admissions to residential and nursing care, which provides a more stable and accurate reflection of activity and aligns with national statutory returns. Performance in Quarter 4 remained well within target, with 51 admissions recorded (93.82 per 100,000), compared to a quarterly target of fewer	
SC3	Number of new admissions to residential care homes for older people.	Low (in line with Peers)	327	>330	80	82	70	51	283		

										than 83 admissions (153 per 100,000). For the full year to date, 283 admissions have been recorded as of 9 April 2026, equating to a rate of 520.63 per 100,000 population. This represents performance significantly better than the annual target and demonstrates continued success in supporting older people to remain living independently where appropriate.	
SC4	Proportion of Adults who were enabled to be independent after short term at home support.	High	90.60%	90%	92.4%	92.4%	94.5%	95.9%	93.8%	Performance for this measure remains strong. In Quarter 4, **95.9%** of adults were supported to remain independent following short-term support in their own homes. The year-end position of **93.8%** exceeds the annual target of **90%**, demonstrating the continued effectiveness of	

										enablement and reablement services. This measure has remained on track throughout the year. Data is refreshed quarterly to ensure accuracy, and work is underway to align the local definition with the national Client Level Dataset definition from 2026–27 to support consistency with statutory reporting.	
SC5	Proportion of carers who find it easy to find information about support.	Better than National Average	n/a	Better than National Average	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	This indicator is reported from the Survey of Adult Carers in England (SACE), managed by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and undertaken every two years. The 2025/26 survey will commence in October 2025. In the previous 2023-24 Survey of Adult Carers 59.5% of Rotherham carers felt it was easy to find information about support. This ranked the	

										Council 77 out of 151 councils, slightly above the national average (59.1%), and in line with the regional Yorkshire and Humber average score (59.5%). **Unable to full assess this measure until the next national data release in Autumn 2026.	
SC6	Number of 0-17year old children who are a Child in Need as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population.	Low	310.7	<375.5	310.6	306.4	321.4	320.1	320.1	320.1 at the end of Quarter 4 showing a decrease of 1.3 compared to Quarter 3 equating to a decrease of 8 young people. The annual outturn shows an increase of 9.4, equating to 100 young people in comparison with the 2024/25 year-end position but still comfortably below target. **Note that the full year's data is refreshed each quarter to take into account any backdated	

										updates made to the system between reports.	
SC7	Number of 0-17year old children with a child protection plan as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population.	Low	54.2	<55	44.9	40.2	43.9	43.3	43.3	**43.3** at the end of Quarter 4 showing a 0.6 decrease compared to Q3 equating to a decrease of 3 young people. The annual outturn is a decrease of 10.9, equating to a decrease of 57 young people in comparison with the 2024/25 year-end position. **Note that the full year's data is refreshed each quarter to take into account any backdated updates made to the system between reports.	
SC8	Number of 0-17year old children in care as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs	Low	83	<90.0	76.1	77.8	78.6	80.8	80.8	**80.8** at the end of Quarter 4 showing a 2.2 increase compared to Q3 equating to an increase of 13 young people, this has been slowly increasing throughout the year but remains under target. The annual outturn is a	

	population.									decrease of 2.2 and a decrease of 1 young person in comparison with the 2024/25 year-end position. **Note that the full year's data is refreshed each quarter to take into account any backdated updates made to the system between reports.	
SC9	Number of 0-17year old children open to the Family Help service as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population.	n/a	403.8	n/a	349.0	337.4	323.6	351.1	351.1	**351.1** at the end of Quarter 4 showing an increase of 27.5 compared to Q3 equating to an increase of 75 young people. The annual outturn is a decrease of 52.7, equating to a decrease of 117 young people in comparison with the 2024/25 year-end position. **Note that the full year's data is refreshed each quarter to take into account any backdated updates made to the system between reports.	No target

SC10	Number of children and young people assessed as having a medium to high risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).	n/a	15	n/a	14	16	23	19	19	**19** at the end of Quarter 4 showing a decrease of 4 young people compared to Quarter 3. The annual outturn is an increase of 4 young people compared to the 2024/25 year-end position.	No target
SC11	Number of children and young people assessed as having a medium to high risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).	n/a	44	n/a	47	46	57	51	51	51 at the end of Quarter 4 showing a decrease of 6 young people compared to Quarter 3. The annual outturn is an increase of 7 young people compared to the 2024/25 year-end position.	No target
SC12	Proportion of children and young people being referred to	Low	17.3%	<22%	19.00 %	19.10 %	18.50 %	19.60 %	19.00%	**19.6%** of referrals in Quarter 4 were re-referrals, showing a 1.1% increase on Quarter 3. The annual outturn is 19.0%, this is an increase	

	social care services for a second of subsequent time within 12 months.									of 2.7% compared to the 2024/25 outturn but still comfortably below target.	

Outcome – One Council that listens and learns

Priorities	The differences you are seeing in the first year of the Council Plan	The differences you'll see in 2026/27
Better customer experience	• Increased the number of services available digitally for customers, with the digital pest control appointment service going live in Quarter 3, followed by new online booking forms for Secure Green Spaces. Throughout 2025/26, a total of 169 new online forms were created, with a further 167 forms amended or updated. A new complaints system and policy was introduced from April 2026. • Implementation of a new IT system (Confirm) to support borough cleanliness, remaining elements are now planned for delivery during 2026.	• An improved and expanded range of online customer services, including the introduction of a new trees system, alongside enhancements to housing repairs services. • Customer telephone wait time in the corporate contact centre averages 2.5 minutes or below, by Quarter 4.
Working in partnership with our communities	• The new Rotherham Plan for the Rotherham Together Partnership was endorsed by partner organisations in May 2026, including Cabinet, and launched at a showcase event at Magna on 11 June 2026. • Cabinet approved a new Inclusion Strategy 2026-2030 in February. • Launched new consultation software in April 2026 to improve the Council's approach to consultation with residents. • Launched new Tenant Engagement Framework, which was developed through co-production.	• Secure Tenant Participatory Advice Service (TPAS) Exemplar Status, recognising strengthened tenant engagement arrangements through independent accreditation by England's leading tenant engagement organisation.

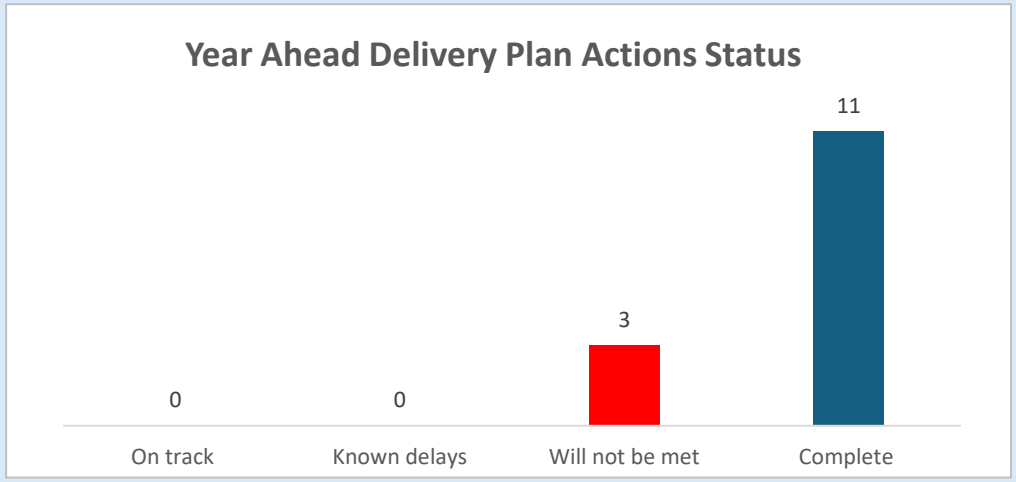
A workforce that is ambitious and proud	• Progress has been made in improving workforce representation, with increases in the proportion of employees from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority backgrounds, those with disabilities, and staff aged under 25. • A programme of work experience, internships, apprenticeships and graduate schemes has been launched, including One Council placements across multiple service areas. 61 student placements and 18 referrals to partner organisations across Rotherham have been delivered. • Increased the proportion of new starter apprenticeships created within the Council to 1.68%, against a target of 1.5%.	• A flexible recruitment approach reflecting the communities served by the Council and supporting delivery of year one priorities within the Inclusion Strategy Action Plan. • An agreed action plan to address identified areas for improvement arising from the employee opinion survey.
Responding to climate change	• Worked with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to progress the next phase of the public EV infrastructure strategy and identify an external funding source. Cabinet approved the Council's inclusion in the South Yorkshire scheme at its meeting in December 2025. Procurement documents have been produced and approved by SYMCA and the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Support Body.	• Delivery of a rooftop solar project at the Market and Library building in the town centre. • Development of a broader climate sustainability strategy in partnership with organisations across the Rotherham Together Partnership, Youth Cabinet, Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission, and other anchor institutions. • Completion of procurement activity for all vehicles included within the Phase 1 Fleet Replacement Programme. • Installation of energy conservation measures, including solar panels, heat pumps and insulation, at 115 Middle Lane South, Springwell Gardens, Swinton Library, and Peacock Lodge Children's Home.

		• Deliver the Council's Heat Decarbonisation Plan to 16 sites that are proposed in the Council's Climate Energy Annual Report (2026/27). • Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure.

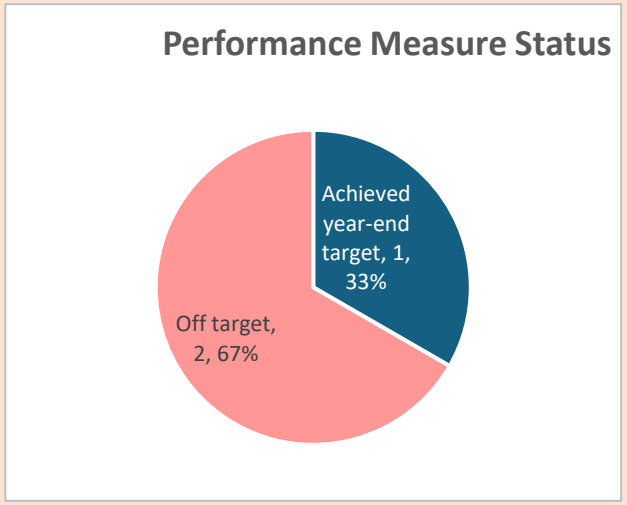
Headlines – evidencing our progress

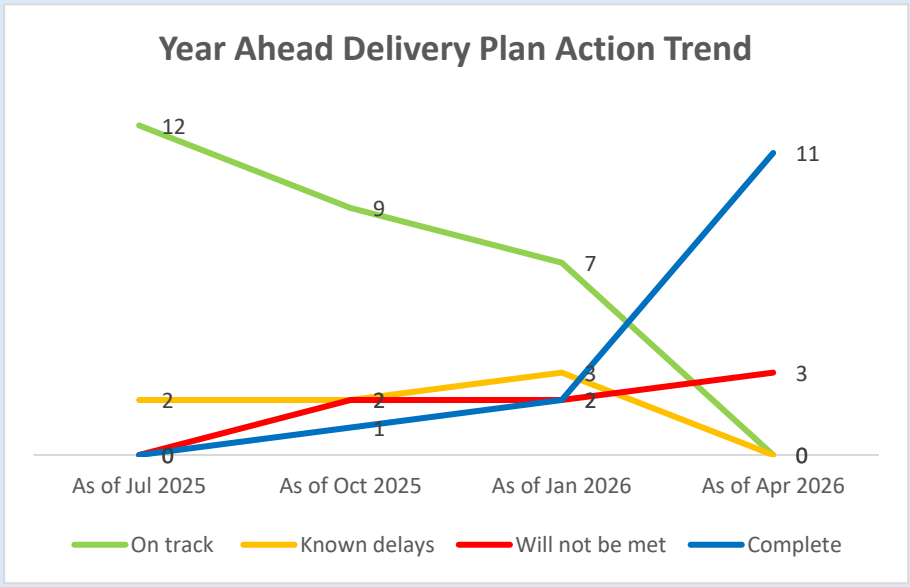
To provide evidence of delivery of the outcomes and commitments within this theme, there are 14 priorities/actions and 3 performance measures contained within the Year Ahead Plan Delivery Plan. The diagrams below provide an overview of performance and progress:

Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions/milestones



Performance measures





Highlights – Achievement and Challenges

This section seeks to summarise achievements, as well as flag challenges and risks. Those included relate to the priority actions within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and further details are available within the main body of the report.

One Council that listens and learns

Achievements - Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities and Performance Measures that have been completed since Quarter 2:

1 The digitalised pest control appointment service went live in Quarter 3 2025/26, followed by new online booking forms for Secure Green Spaces in Quarter 4 2025/26. Throughout 2025/26, 169 new online forms were created with a further 167 amended or updated.
4 Proportion of complaints closed within timescales was 85% (*higher is better)*, this therefore met the 85% target.
6 The Council's refreshed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy was agreed by Cabinet in February 2026, now named the Inclusion Strategy.

7 The new Rotherham Plan for the Rotherham Together Partnership was endorsed by partner organisations in May 2026, including Cabinet, and launched at a showcase event at Magna on 11 June 2026.
9 Implemented new consultation software in April 2026, to improve the Council's approach to consultation.
10 Rotherham Adult Social Care Always Listening Co-Production Board (RASCAL) has been embedded within the approach to change across adult social care strengthening co-production, governance, and lived-experience across the service.
11 Co-designed the new Tenant Engagement Framework strengthening tenant influence in Rotherham and empowers tenants to effectively shape council housing services.
13 Implemented a refreshed recruitment approach to better attract candidate's representative of the borough, supported by attendance to 19 careers and employability events in Quarter 4 2025/26. This has contributed to increased engagement from young people, with more applications and appointments from the 16-24 age group, alongside delivery of 61 work placements across Council services.
15 Delivered 30 engagement events with education establishments and communities to improve awareness and promote the benefits of renewables, carbon reduction, energy management and green skills and jobs.
16 Developed a full business case for the procurement and delivery of a Local Area Energy Plan for Rotherham. This has been included within the Climate Emergency Annual Report for delivery during 2026/27.
17 The next phase of public EV infrastructure strategy has advanced with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, securing a funding source and identifying a proposed approach.

Challenges - Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities that will not be met within three months of the original target date or Performance Measures that have not achieved target within 2025/26:

2 Implementation of the new IT system (Confirm) continues to make progress; however, it has been delayed due the complexity of data development, cleansing, analysis and migration, alongside competing operational demands. The remaining elements are now planned for delivery during 2026/27.
3 Average customer wait time to corporate contact centre was 4 minutes and 33 seconds in Quarter 4. This is against a target of under 3 minutes on average.
5 411 complaints relating to street cleaning, grounds maintenance and waste management were received during 2025/26, compared with a target of fewer than 190 complaints *(lower is better).* Performance was affected by several operational challenges, including significant changes within the waste management service, reliance on agency staffing and the implementation of revised collection routes.
12 The Employee Opinion Survey 2025 was delivered within the agreed timescales and achieved a 49% participation rate, against a target of 50%.
14 The installation of solar (Photovoltaic) panels at five town centre properties has been delayed following the consolidation of works into a single procurement, supporting better value for money and a more coordinated approach to future installations. Completion is now expected in Quarter 3 of 2026/27.

Narrative – the bigger picture

The One Council that listens and learns outcome focusses on delivering a high-quality customer experience, working in partnership with communities, supporting a workforce that is ambitious and proud, and responding to the challenges of climate change. Central to this outcome is the continual improvement of internal processes, strengthening engagement and modernising services to meet the evolving needs of residents.

Progress has been made in expanding digital services and access, supporting greater efficiency for residents. New online booking forms for Pest Control and Secure Green Spaces have been introduced. Throughout 2025/26, 169 new online forms have been created with a further 167 online forms amended or updated. Delivery of the Council's new IT system (Confirm) has progressed, although implementation is taking longer than originally planned. Once complete, the system will enhance workflows, case management, and customer experience through features such as interactive mapping and automated updates, ultimately improving the cleanliness of the borough by providing better performance monitoring.

Engagement with residents and communities remains a key priority. The Housing Tenant Engagement Team delivered a comprehensive programme of co-design activity between Spring and Autumn 2025 to inform the development of a new Tenant Engagement Framework. The Council approved its Inclusion Strategy in February 2026, following consultation with residents and community groups across the borough. The strategy sets out a clear ambition to reduce barriers to participation in all aspects of life across the borough. It is structured around four equality objectives: working together, responsive services, welcoming places, and becoming an employer of choice. A new consultation platform was launched in April 2026 which provides a more accessible and inclusive mechanism for residents to have a voice on issues and projects affecting them, while ensuring that the process is consistent and streamlined.

The Council continues to respond to the climate emergency. The installation of two solar (PV) panels on five properties across the town centre is delayed ensuring best value is realised through one procurement exercise. Completion is now expected in Quarter 3 2026/27. A full business case has been developed for a Local Area Energy Plan, which will be delivered through the 2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan. Work is also progressing in partnership with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to deliver the next phase of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure. Following Cabinet approval in December 2025, procurement documents have been approved by SYMCA and the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Support Body, with SYMCA responsible for publication in Quarter 1 2026/27. This collaborative approach reflects the importance of regional coordination in responding to climate challenges and securing investment.

Year Ahead Delivery Plan tracker

Outcome 5: One Council that listens and learns					
Ref	**Outcome**	**Activity**	**Timescales for delivery**	**Status**	**Rationale for status**
1	**Better customer experience**	Increase the number of services available digitally for our customers, by implementing calendar booking and payment upfront online functions. This will include a digitalised pest control appointment service.	Quarter 4	Complete	The digitalised pest control appointment service went live in Quarter 3, followed by new online booking forms for Secure Green Spaces. Throughout 2025/26, 169 new online forms were created with a further 167 amended or updated.
2		Implement a new IT system (Confirm), which will improve the cleanliness of the borough by providing better performance monitoring, maximising use of resources and improving how the public report and receive feedback on local issues.	Quarter 3	Will not be met	Service delivery has been delayed due to the complexity of data development, cleansing, analysis and migration, alongside competing operational demands. The remaining elements are now planned for delivery during 2026, with full transition to business-as-usual arrangements later than originally planned.
3		Performance measures: see below			
4					
5					
6	**Working in partnership with our communities**	Refresh the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy and produce the accompanying Annual Report.	Quarter 2	Complete	The EDI Strategy refresh was considered and agreed at Cabinet in February 2026 following the consultation that was undertaken throughout the autumn. The consultation undertaken included a number of focus groups with different groups from across the borough.

					The Strategy has now been renamed as the “Inclusion” Strategy.
7		Develop and launch a new Rotherham Plan for the Rotherham Together Partnership.	Quarter 4	Complete	This was endorsed by partner organisations in May 2026, including Cabinet, and was launched at the Rotherham Together Partnership showcase at Magna on 11 June 2026.
8		Deliver the next phase of a staff and Elected Member learning and development programme that will help embed a strength based-working approach across the Council’s workforce and partners.	Quarter 2	Complete	Training for 80 staff members took place during July 2025. A Community of Practice has been established for continued staff development and support. A session for Elected Members was also held on 3 November 2025.
9		Procure and implement new consultation software to improve the Council’s approach to consultation.	Quarter 4	Complete	The system has been procured and implemented. Training for Council staff has been undertaken. Pilots of the new system were undertaken in Quarter 4 on smaller scale ongoing consultations and engagement activities. The new system went live from 1 April 2026.
10		Embed the Rotherham Adult Social Care Always Listening Co-Production Board (RASCAL) within the approach to change across adult social care.	Quarter 4	Complete	The Rotherham Adult Social Care Always Listening Co-Production Board (RASCAL) continues to meet monthly and is now well embedded within Adult Social Care’s approach to service change. The Board is co-chaired by a member with lived experience alongside the Co-Production Lead, strengthening shared ownership and ensuring effective governance.

					RASCAL has played a key role in co-producing the next Adult Social Care Strategy, including shaping the approach to community engagement. Activity is underway to further strengthen the representativeness of the Board through recruitment of new members, and planning is in progress to mark Co-Production Week in July 2026, reinforcing the Council's commitment to meaningful involvement.
11		Co-design a new look tenant engagement framework that strengthens tenant influence in Rotherham and empowers tenants to effectively shape council housing services and enhance their neighbourhoods.	Quarter 4	Complete	Between spring and autumn 2025, the Housing Tenant Engagement Team ran 13 codesign workshops with 26 of our regularly engaged tenants. Alongside tenant only sessions, the Service also brought together a national TPAS consultant, and key council stakeholders including the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Housing Senior Management Team. These workshops allowed collaboratively working, to explore what excellent engagement should look like, develop proposed aims and outcomes for wider consultation, and agree the shared values that will guide the approach over the next four years. Following these workshops a further 107 tenants gave their views on the proposed aims and outcomes. The Service used this learning from the consultation to finalise the Tenant Engagement Framework. A further meeting was held with tenants from the main panels to sense-check the final version and make sure it

					reflected what they had said was most important. The framework is now live on the Council website.
12	**A workforce that is ambitious**	Complete the Employee Opinion Survey 2025 and increase the participation rate to greater than 50%.	Quarter 4	Will not be met	The Employee Opinion Survey 2025 was delivered in accordance with timescales and achieved a 49% completion rate. Outcomes have been communicated with Council staff, Elected Members and Trade Unions via the Joint Consultative Committee. Notable increases were seen in senior management visibility, leadership and direction, alongside staff feeling a strong sense of belonging to the Council and its values. The Workforce Board, chaired by the Chief Executive, is developing an overarching action plan as part of continuous improvement activity and further links to actions in the Workforce Plan and the Inclusion Strategy. Activity will be monitored through the workforce Board and reporting to the Joint Consultative Committee.
13		Refresh the recruitment approach through engagement with our communities and modern recruitment methods, including jobs fairs and partnership working, to ensure the attraction of applicants who are representative of the communities we serve.	Quarter 4	Complete	In Quarter 4 2025/26, a total of 19 careers and employability events were attended by the Council. These included careers fairs, work placement, launch events, apprenticeship pathway sessions and a professional interview evening. A total of 112 work placement applications were received. Of these, 61 placements were offered across 16 services, alongside 18 referrals to

					partners and other organisations in Rotherham. Three T-Level placements were offered within Digital Services, and a long-term undergraduate placement was completed within the Organisational Development service. Recruitment impacts continue to be monitored, which has been an increase in applications from Quarter 4 2023/24 (15.25%) to Quarter 4 2025/26 (15.86%) and in appointments (13.28% to 14.87%) from the 16-24 age group.
14	**Responding to Climate Change**	Install two solar (PV) panels on five town centre properties ((Tom Burgess House, Arthur Wharton House, Elizabeth House, Portland House; Millfold Rise) to provide a revenue income or saving, funded by the Decarbonisation Recycle Fund.	Quarter 4	Will not be met	A procurement activity is ongoing to identify solar suppliers, to now include installations. By bringing this into one procurement, it will create delays on this scheme but will provide economies of scale/better value for money and a more proactive approach to future installations. Completion is now expected Quarter 3 2026/27.
15		Deliver 10 engagement events with education establishments and communities to improve awareness and promote the benefits of renewables, carbon reduction, energy management and green skills and jobs.	Quarter 4	Complete	Throughout 2025/26, a total of 30 events have taken place including six school engagements to discuss renewable energy and student engagement. Energy officers have also attended one formal landlord event raising awareness of ECO 4 Flex and Landlords EV infrastructure offer. 18 Winter wellbeing events have been undertaken at community centres across the borough, including Riverside House and Catcliffe Memorial Hall.
16		Develop a full business case for the procurement and	Quarter 4	Complete	A business case has been created, followed by the inclusion of this project within the Climate

		delivery of a Local Area Energy Plan for Rotherham, including a review of potential external funding opportunities.			Emergency Annual Report. This action was approved at Cabinet 13 April 2026 for procurement and delivery within the 2026/27 Climate Change Action Plan.
17		Work with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to progress the next phase of the Public EV Infrastructure Strategy and identify an external funding source.	Quarter 4	Complete	The Council's EV Infrastructure officer continues has worked closely with SYMCA colleagues and other Local Authority counterparts to develop this scheme. A funding source and proposed approach has been identified. Cabinet approved the Council's inclusion in the South Yorkshire scheme at its meeting in December 2025. Procurement documents have been produced and approved by SYMCA and the LEVI Support Body. SYMCA will now be responsible for publishing this in Quarter 1 2026/27. There are no further actions for the Council to undertake until a supplier is appointed.

Performance measures

Ref	Measure	Good Performance	2024/25 Year End	Target (If Applicable)	Q1 (Apr-Jun)	Q2 (Jul-Sep)	Q3 (Oct-Dec)	Q4 (Jan-Mar)	Year to Date	Progress Update	Rag Rating
3	Customer telephone wait time in the corporate contact centre to under 3 minutes.	Low	2 mins 47 secs	3 minutes	3 mins 31 secs	5 mins 56 secs	4 mins 6 secs	4 mins 33 secs	n/a	Call wait times in Quarter 4 were challenging with weather events and staff numbers. Staff levels have now been increased to an appropriate level but due to training time, this did not have a positive impact on call wait times during the quarter.	
4	Respond to 85% or above of complaints closed within timescales.	High	83%	85%	81%	82%	83%	85%	85%	In Quarter 4 2025/26, breakdown of performance by directorate/service area is as follows: All directorates and service areas are performing on or above target apart from Children and Young Peoples Services and Housing. The Housing Services has significantly improved performance from 2024/25 which was 76%.	

5	Reduce the number of complaints relating to street cleaning, grounds maintenance and waste management to less than 190.	Low	257	<190	79	99	46	187	411	187 complaints received in Quarter 4, of which 183 relate to Waste Management, 1 on Street Cleansing and 3 on Grounds Maintenance. Waste Management complaints rose by 140 in Quarter 4 compared to Quarter 3, representing the highest quarterly total for the service. Street Cleansing recorded one complaint in Quarter 4, unchanged from Quarter 3, with eight complaints received over the year. Ground Maintenance saw a small increase to 3 complaints in Quarter 4, bringing the annual total to 15. Overall, 411 complaints were received during 2025/26. The Waste Management service has experienced significant change during 2025/26, which disrupted service delivery. While stabilisation plans are expected to reduce complaints,	

										the introduction of a new complaints process and resident form may result in higher reported numbers.	

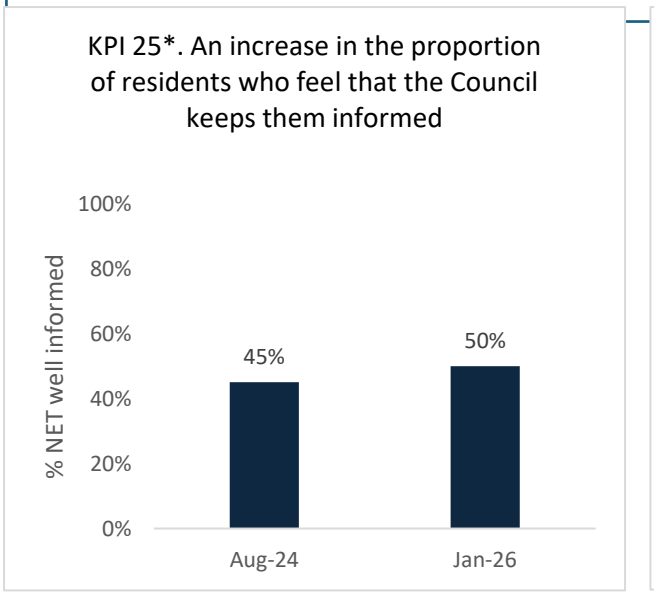
Long-term measures of success

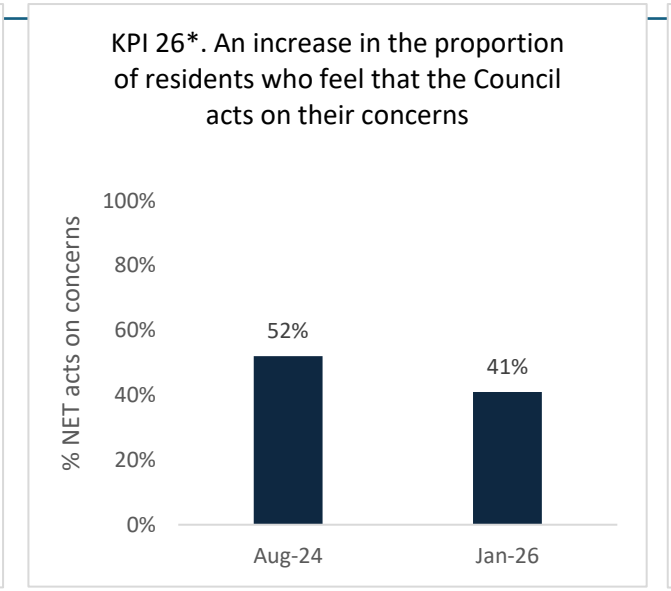
The results of the annual long-term measures for this theme offer a nuanced picture of how residents experience the Council. Half of residents now feel the Council keeps them well informed, up from a baseline of 45% in 2024. However, the proportion of residents who feel the Council acts on their concerns has fallen from 52% in 2024 to 41% in 2026. For this question, residents were asked for their opinion about services provided by the Council to the community as a whole, as well as to their own household, and therefore this might explain the difference between the perceptions of KPI 25 and KPI 26.

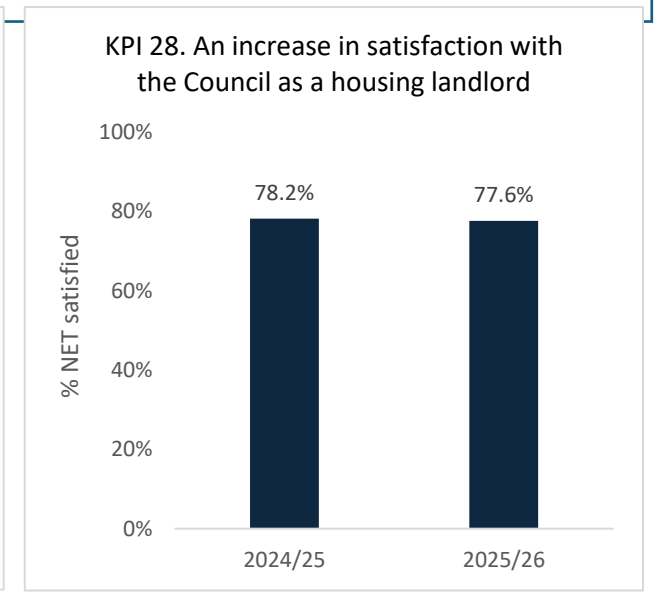
There has been a 0.6 percentage point decrease in satisfaction with the Council as a housing landlord compared to the previous year. Despite this dip, the figure remains 0.7 percentage points above the 2023/24 baseline, and within the Local Authority upper quartile when compared to 2024/25 results, an indication of sustained performance above national benchmarks.

Strengthening measures informed by customer feedback will be implemented to improve overall satisfaction and support continued high performance. Target agreed between Housing Services and involved tenants via the Housing Involvement Panel in March 2026.

**NB: the relatively small sample size of the Rotherham surveys means that only a difference of five per cent or more between different survey results indicates a statistically significant change.*



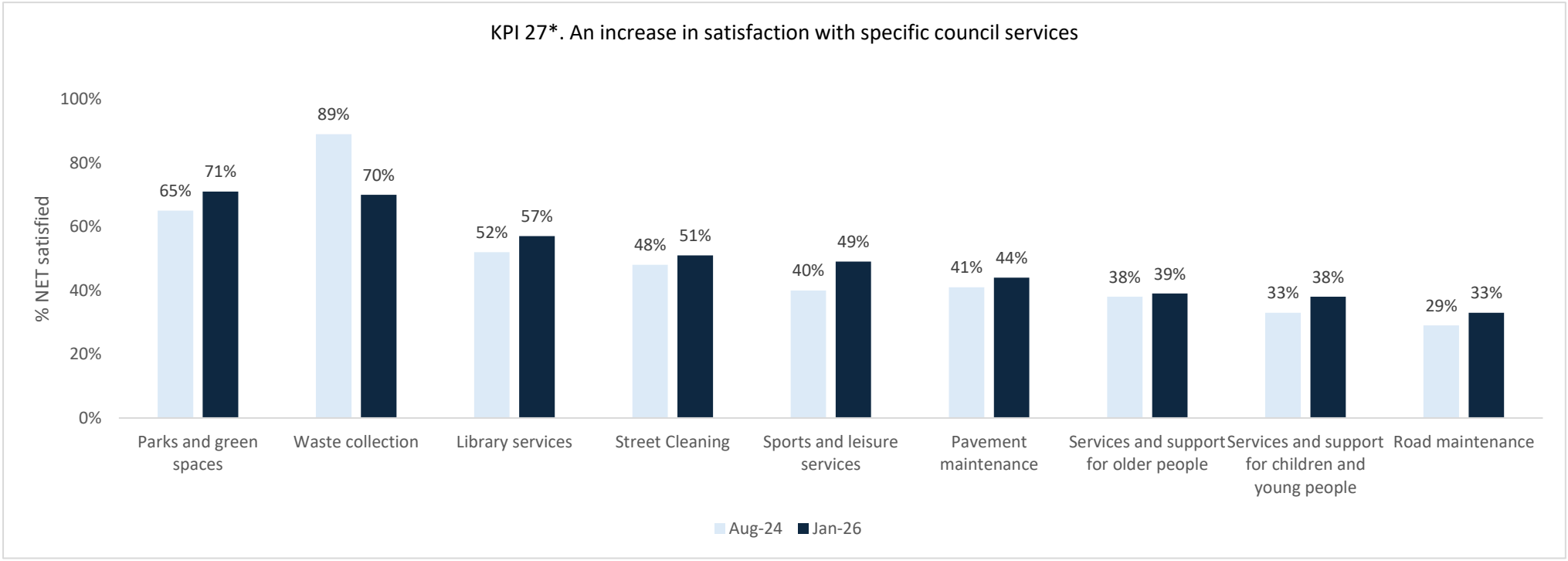




When asked about specific council services, residents reported an increase in satisfaction has increased across the majority of service areas since 2024, with the largest improvements in sport and leisure services (up from 40% to 49%), parks and green spaces (up from 65% to 71%), and services for children and young people (up from 33% to 38%).

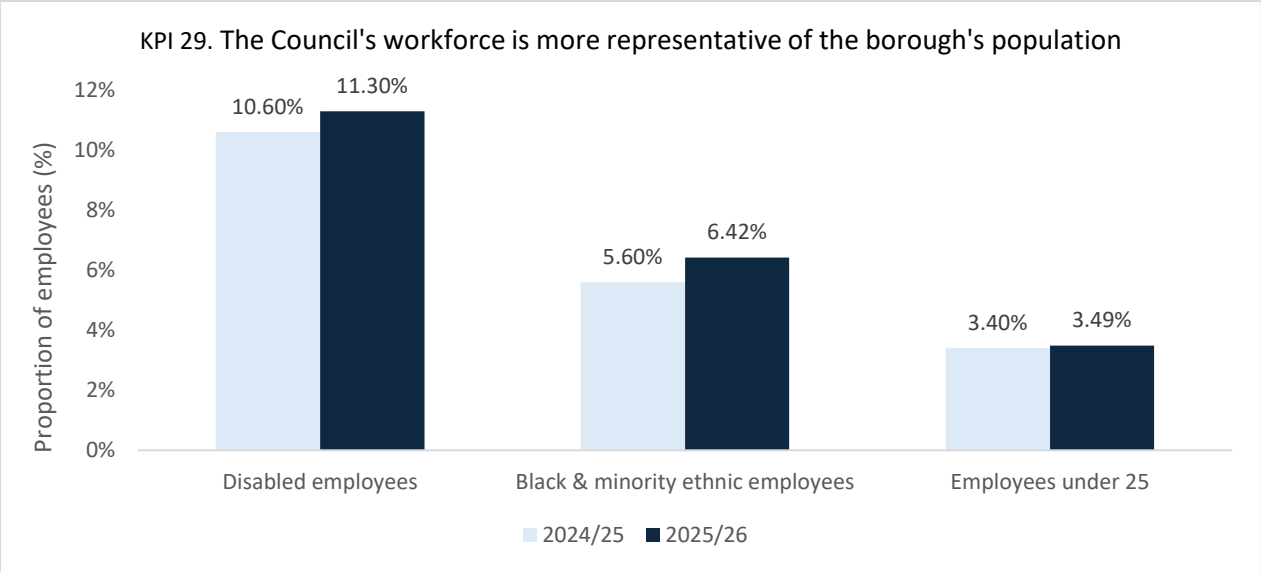
The most notable exception is waste collection, where satisfaction has fallen from 89% to 70%, though it remains the second highest-rated service area, behind only parks and green spaces.

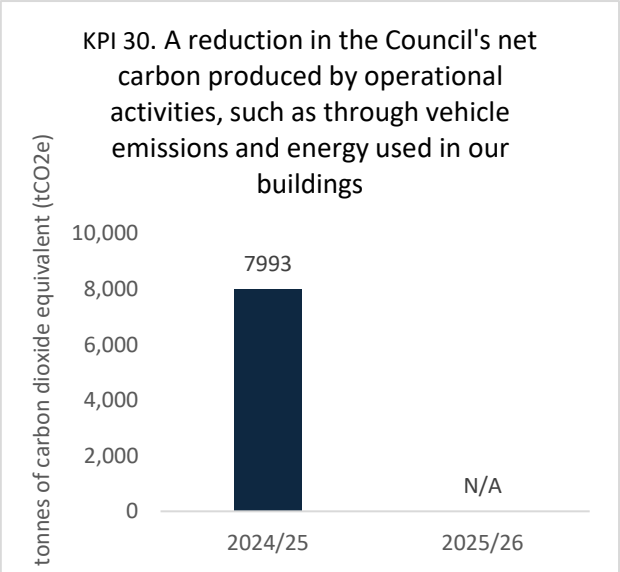
Road maintenance continues to attract the lowest satisfaction of any service at 33%. However, it should be noted that Rotherham Council has been named one of the best Local Authorities in the country for pothole repairs and road condition, with £39m invested between 2015 and 2024, with a further £16m committed to the Rotherham Roads Programme until 2028.



On workforce diversity, progress has been made across all three monitored groups, strengthening the council's commitment to having a workforce that is representative of the borough. The proportion of employees from black and minority ethnic backgrounds has risen to 6.42%, employees with a disability has increased to 11.30%, and the proportion of staff aged under 25 has grown to 3.49%, reflecting the impact of targeted recruitment and early careers pathways.

Carbon output data for 2025/26 is not yet available and will be reported in Quarter 2 of 2026. Results will be published in the next Quarter 4 (year-end) report.





Case studies

Co-designing Rotherham Council's Tenant Engagement Framework 2026

Tenant Engagement is how Rotherham Council's housing services connects with its tenants. At its core, it is about listening to people's experiences, capturing their ideas, and acting on their feedback. It makes sure tenants have real opportunities to scrutinise services, influence decisions about their homes, and play an active role in shaping their neighbourhoods.

The Housing Tenant Engagement Framework 2026 is the Council's main strategic document that underpins this work. It sets out the approach and priorities for delivering excellent tenant engagement in Rotherham over the next four years.

The Council saw developing the framework as an opportunity to do things differently, working alongside tenants to design a framework that genuinely reflects their priorities.

Together, a programme of co-design and co-creation was undertaken to develop fresh aims, meaningful outcomes, and a shared set of values to guide the work and support a stronger, more inclusive approach to tenant engagement over the next four years.

What We Did

Between spring and autumn 2025, the Housing Tenant Engagement team ran 13 co-design workshops with 26 of the Council's regularly engaged tenants. A mix of online and in person sessions were offered, alongside tailored support where needed.

Alongside tenant only sessions, which were facilitated by the Tenant Engagement Team to keep early discussions tenant led, the Service also brought together experienced tenant representatives, a national Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) consultant, and key council stakeholders including the Cabinet Member for Housing and senior management.

These workshops allowed collaborative work with everyone, from tenants to senior leaders, to explore what excellent engagement should look like, develop proposed aims and outcomes for wider consultation, and agree the shared values that will guide the approach over the next four years.

After the initial in-person sessions, a targeted survey was sent to a large sample of tenants across wards via text message and email. At the same time, Rotherfed were active in the community, encouraging tenants throughout the borough to complete a paper version of the survey and offering support to anyone who required help to take part.

A total of 107 tenants responded. 80 tenants chose to share their diversity information, which included:

- 6 tenants from ethnic minority backgrounds
- 59 tenants who reported having a disability
- 26 tenants under the age of 45.

Of those who shared this information, 46 identified as female, 29 as male and 1 as non-binary.

The survey results helped shape the final aims and outcomes. The results also ensured the framework recognises and addresses potential barriers faced by tenants across all protected characteristics, supporting a more inclusive and accessible approach to tenant engagement.

Feedback from the consultation was used to finalise the Tenant Engagement Framework. Tenants from the main panels were then invited to review the final version to ensure it reflected what matters most to them. This can be read here Tenant Engagement Framework 2026.

Stella Parkin (Tenant Chair of the Housing Involvement Panel) told us:

"Working alongside other tenants to help shape this framework has been a real pleasure. We've shared our views and experiences and worked closely with the Tenant Engagement Team to build something we're genuinely proud of."

What happens now

Over the coming months, tenants on the Screen Team communications panel will help raise awareness of the framework and ensure it is shared widely and in accessible ways.

Work is also taking place with Housing Teams and partners at RotherFed to co-design an action plan that will deliver the agreed aims.

Tenant involvement will continue as this develops, with the Housing Involvement Panel playing a key role in monitoring progress and holding the organisation to account as the framework is implemented.

St George's Day celebration event

Following the emergence of St George's flags and emblems appear across communities in summer / early autumn 2025 and the divisive response this provoked, Rotherham Council undertook a period of consultation in September 2025. The consultation concluded that of the 837 respondents:

- 67% were in favour of the flags
- However, when asked what sentiment the flags portrayed 26% of respondents felt they had racist connotation, 32.6% felt they showed defensive/assertive patriotism and only 8.2% felt they represented inclusive pride
- When asked about the appetite for a St George's Day celebration 18% responded favourably, with 1.6% responding negatively.

Based upon the results of the consultation the core brief for the event was:

- **Collective creation** – a visual demonstration of how community in all its forms unites us.
- **A proud and defiant celebration of our identity** – the English flag is placed front and centre in the celebration.
- **Representation above rhetoric** – a subtle expression that the English Flag belongs to all our communities, and all communities in Rotherham are welcomed, supported and recognised.

The event formed part of a much wider and ongoing conversation led by the Corporate Communications team and relied heavily on working with teams across the Council where trusted relationships were already in place, providing support and reassurance to enable people to participate. It was important that the event felt like an invitation to all communities.

The event took place at Clifton Park on Saturday 18 April, the weekend prior to the official St George's Day on 23 April. The programme centred the St George's Cross flag as a large-scale Land Art installation with members of the public helping to create the flag using emblems of the diverse cultural life in Rotherham. The event including food and music which represented the many countries where St George is also patron saint as well celebrating traditional English cultural heritage through Morris Dancing and community choirs.

The event was attended by over 2,500 people, including from a diverse range of background to celebrate a shared national identity.

Following the event, a film that was first commissioned in 2020 for Yorkshire Day – Our Rotherham – was updated with images from St George's Day Celebrations. The film was originally written by young people across the borough and focuses on the values, experiences and memories that unite us regardless of our backgrounds. These sentiments continue to be important to us as the discussions related to national identity continue to play out across social media channels.

The final film can be viewed here: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1521771692875916

An independent evaluation of the event revealed:

- 87% of respondents rated the event four or five stars, with half awarding a maximum five-star score; a strong result for a new event.
- 85% visited the park specifically for the celebration, with 86.7% attending from Rotherham postcodes. This confirms the event's ability to attract local footfall.
- Ethnic minority respondents gave exclusively four and five-star ratings; a positive signal that the inclusive programming approach is resonating with Rotherham's diverse communities. Rotherham St. George's Day Celebrations Evaluation 2026
- 90% of respondents felt the celebration helps bring people together, and 96% said they would like to see the event return every year.

Feedback from attendees included:

"The fact it is free for all and getting the community together."

"It's great to have shared experiences with people within the community who you wouldn't ordinarily mix with."

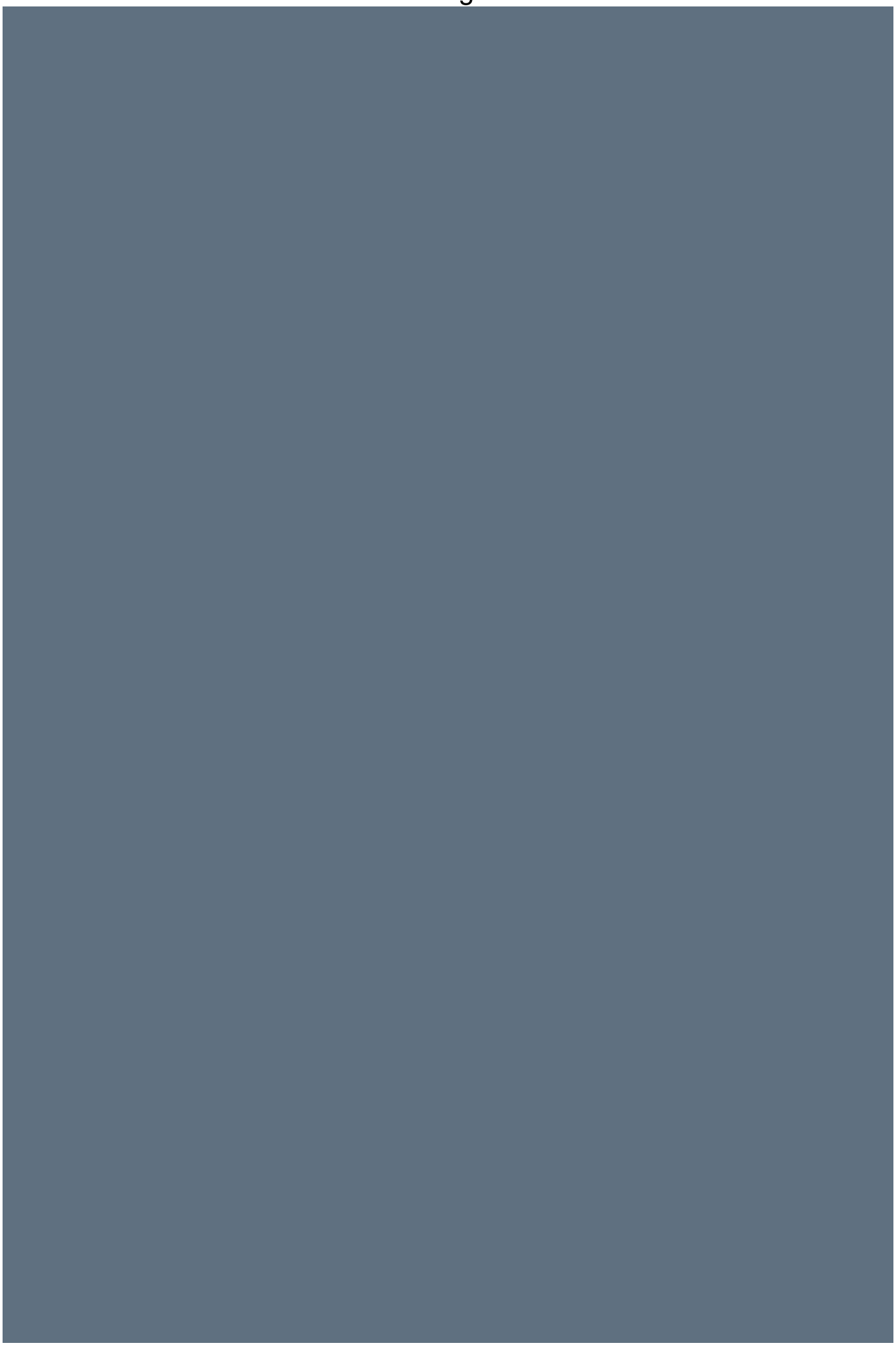
"We moved to Rotherham and will not leave. We came from a city which did not provide the community feel Rotherham does. We feel that any bad press Rotherham gets is not justified anymore. The council works hard for families and the community".

Annex: Long-term measures of success – data sources

KPI	Outcome Measure	Data Source
1	An increase in the proportion of people satisfied with their local area as a place to live	Rotherham Resident Satisfaction survey: Residential Satisfaction Surveys – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
2	An increase in the proportion of people satisfied with the Rotherham borough as a place to live	Rotherham Resident Satisfaction survey: Residential Satisfaction Surveys – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
3	An increase in footfall in the town centre	Measure from MRI On Location Footfall
4	A decrease in the percentage of vacant units in the town centre	Measure taken from town centre use quarterly survey conducted by Rotherham Council planning team
5	An increase in the proportion of people optimistic about the future of Rotherham town centre	Rotherham Resident Satisfaction survey: Residential Satisfaction Surveys – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
6	An increase in the proportion of public that feel safe when outside in their local area during the day	Rotherham Resident Satisfaction survey: Residential Satisfaction Surveys – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
7	An increase in the proportion of public that feel safe when outside in their local area after dark	Rotherham Resident Satisfaction survey: Residential Satisfaction Surveys – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
8	An increase in the percentage of sites classed as (acceptably) free of litter and rubbish	Measure from APSE, Rotherham Council's Land Audit Management System (LAMS)
9	An increase in the value of Rotherham's economy	Measure from Office of National Statistics (ONS) Regional gross domestic product (GDP): all International Territorial Level (ITL) regions, measure is specifically Gross domestic product (GDP) per head at current market prices, pounds

10	An improvement in the skills of residents in the borough	Measure taken from Office of National Statistics (ONS) Annual Population Survey: Annual population survey (APS) QMI - Office for National Statistics
11	An increase in the proportion of the working age population who are in work (or actively looking for work) in Rotherham	Measure taken from Office of National Statistics (ONS) Annual Population Survey: Annual population survey (APS) QMI - Office for National Statistics
12	An increase in the number of businesses in Rotherham per 10,000 residents	Composite Measure of business Counts (Local Units) taken from the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) / Office of National Statistics (ONS) Population estimates
13	An increase in the proportion of eligible 2-year-olds taking up an early education place as soon as possible	Rotherham Council internal measure (Children's Services)
14	An increase in the proportion of pupils passing the phonics screening in year 1	Rotherham Council internal measure (Children's Services)
15	Improve GCSE grades in the borough relative to the national average	Rotherham Council internal measure (Children's Services)
16	An increase in the number of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan in mainstream schools	Rotherham Council internal measure (Children's Services)
17	Maintain the number of suitable homes that are available for care leavers	Rotherham Council internal measure (Children's Services)
18	An increase in the proportion of children in care living within 20 miles of home	Rotherham Council internal measure (Children's Services)
19	An increase in the proportion of adults supported by social care who feel they have control over their daily life	National Statutory Return from Adult Social Outcomes framework ASCOF3A indicator, populated from the Adult Social Care Survey undertaken annually

20	An increase in the proportion of adults who felt their Safeguarding outcomes were at least particularly met	Rotherham Council internal measure (Adults)
21	An increase in the number of people supported to live healthier lifestyles through weight management and help to stop smoking	Rotherham Council internal measure (Public Health)
22	An increase in the proportion of households supported who were prevented or relieved from homelessness	National Statutory Homelessness Legislation definition.
23	An increase in the number of new homes delivered with council support	Rotherham Council internal measure (Housing)
24	An increase in the proportion of council homes meeting 'Decent Homes' standard	National Decent Homes Standard/TSM technical definition – Internal measure (Housing)
25	An increase in the proportion of residents who feel that the Council keeps them informed	Rotherham Resident Satisfaction survey: Residential Satisfaction Surveys – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
26	An increase in the proportion of residents who feel that the Council acts on their concerns	Rotherham Resident Satisfaction survey: Residential Satisfaction Surveys – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
27	An increase in satisfaction with specific council services (Waste collection; street cleaning; road maintenance; pavement maintenance; sport and leisure services; services and support for older people; services and support for children and young people; parks and green spaces)	Rotherham Resident Satisfaction survey: Residential Satisfaction Surveys – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
28	An increase in satisfaction with the Council as a housing landlord	National Tenant Satisfaction Measure (TSM) captured via annual survey - Internal measure (Housing)
29	The Council's workforce is more representative of the borough's population	Rotherham Council internal measure (Corporate Services)
30	A reduction in the Council's net carbon produced by operational activities, such as through vehicle emissions and energy used in our buildings	Rotherham Council internal measure (Corporate Services)



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Appendix 2 – Summary Council Plan Progress Report – Year-End Report for 2025/26 (Quarter 4 performance data and progress on YADP 2025/26)

Outcome: Places are thriving, safe and clean	
Year Ahead Delivery Plan - actions	
• 73% of actions are completed (19/26) • 4% of actions are delayed by less than 3 months (1/26) • 23% of actions are delayed by more than 3 months (6/26)	
Actions complete since Quarter 2 report:	• **P4** Tackle **hate crime incidents** and the driving factors of hate crime through the delivery of education and engagement group and individual sessions – delivered 37 group sessions that reached 991 children and young people, and 98 one-to-one interventions to individuals involved in or at risk of perpetrating hate crime. • **P7** Delivery of **ward plans** through ward reports being reported to Council from July 2025 – ten ward reports have been presented at Council throughout 2025/26. • **P10** Deliver **cultural events** in varied locations across the borough – delivered a range of cultural events across the borough with an estimated attendance of 157,504 throughout 2025/26. • **P12** Start work on the **demolition of Wath library** – demolition work began on 9 February 2026. • **P13** Support communities across the borough through the delivery of the **Community Cohesion Grant fund** – delivered throughout 2025/26 by a wide range of partners, supporting a diverse range of activities. This included a small grants programme that funded various community events to celebrate St Georges Day. • **P15** Invest £2 million into **11km of footway improvements** across the borough - delivered 9.04 miles or 14.47km of footway improvements. • **P16** Complete redevelopment works at **Rother Valley Country Park** – the new Waterfront Café opened to the public on 17 April 2026. • **P17** Complete redevelopment works at **Thrybergh Country Park –** the redeveloped Lakeside Café opened to the public in February 2026. • **P18** Progress the **Catcliffe Flood Alleviation Scheme –** a delivery partner has now been appointed to progress the design. • **P22** Complete the procurement of the **Refuse Collection Vehicles –** 16 new Refuse Collection Vehicles have been procured. • **P29** Complete landscaping works to the **pocket park at Snail Yard** – opened to the public in February 2026.

	• **P30** Start work on the first phase of a Health Hub providing health-based services in the town centre – minor works began on 20 January 2026. • **P31** The development of plans to RIBA Stage 1 for the next phase of the **major housing development** in the town centre – initial designs are being developed in preparation for consideration by Cabinet in July 2026.
Actions delayed (by less than 3 months)	• **P28** Complete construction works to the **Outdoor Covered Market -** The construction of the outdoor market has been delayed due to a requirement for design changes. The works will now be complete by the end of June and will be open to the public from the 10th July 2026.
Actions significantly delayed (by more than 3 months)	• **P3** Develop and consult on tranche 2 **Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety programme** – 8 schemes are with design consultants where they are being developed to detailed design stage, with the delay in securing these contracts leading to the delay on the action. The action is now due to be complete in Quarter 2 2026/27. • **P8** Refresh the **Thriving Neighbourhood Strategy** - delayed due to the Assistant Chief Executive vacancy. Two complementary strategies will now be developed, the Neighbour Leadership Strategy (due to Cabinet in Quarter 2 2026/27) and the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy (due to Cabinet in Quarter 3 2026/27). • **P9** Implement Phase 1 of the **Our Places Fund** by starting work on the Swinton & Maltby schemes – Swinton scheme is now underway. Maltby scheme has been delayed due to additional funding, increased scope and design changes requested by Rotherham Council and start on site is now expected in Quarter 2 2026/27. • **P14** Invest £300k in **community facilities** across the borough, including Black Hut and Oaklea Retreat – works commenced on Oaklea Retreat in June 2026 and works at the Meeting Place are due to start in July. Two options being considered for the Black Hut of either refurbishing the existing building or demolishing it and replacing it with a new modular type unit. A final decision will be made once all surveys have been completed. • **P19** There are delays across some of the **flood defence/mitigation schemes** due to the requirement to obtain formal approval to carry out site investigation and/or alter existing topography from third parties. Works at Whiston are scheduled to begin in June 2026, while designs for the Eel Mires and Kilnhurst schemes are expected to be completed in Quarter 2 2026/27, with Environment Agency approvals anticipated in Quarter 3 2026/27.

	• **P21** Complete the procurement of all vehicles within the **Fleet Replacement Plan** – 23 vehicles have been received and contracts in place for a further two, while one additional vehicle is awaiting contract approval. Procurement is progressing for 11 vehicles, with four more awaiting service approval of business cases. A further 62 vehicles are being reviewed by the EV Working Group. Three vehicles remain on hold, and 13 are at the early scoping stage for replacement. Procurement is now expected to be completed by September 2026.

Performance Measures	
• 75% of performance measures have achieved year-end target (6/8) • 25% of performance measures are off target (2/8)	
Measures on target	• **P5** Issue 1,000 formal enforcement actions to help address anti-social behaviour in communities - a total of 1,156 formal enforcement actions (Community Protection Notices and Community Protection Warnings) had been issued. • **P23a** Achieve 80% of the 'principal' road network - 81.59% of the local 'principal' road network is classified as 'green status' (do not require repair). • **P23b** Achieve 77% of the 'non-principal' road network - 80.46% of the local 'non-principal' road network is classified as 'green status' (do not require repair). • **P23c** Achieve 65% of the 'unclassified' road network - 70.97% of the local 'unclassified' road network was classified as 'green status' (do not require repair). • **P24** Undertake effective enforcement action for fly tipping by issuing a minimum of 60 fixed penalty notices - 68 effective enforcement actions for fly tipping were issued. • **P26** Plant at least 500 trees across the borough - 710 trees were planted.
Measures off target	• **P6** 33 adults to start a residential rehabilitation placement to receive support for drug/alcohol misuse – 19 residential rehabilitation placements were started in total. The current provider's model for identification and assessment for this intervention differed from previous years, where a dedicated worker led this activity. There was also no waiting list for this intervention, or clients assessed as suitable but unable to access it, and the delivery shortfall may be as a result of a high number last year and/or issues with the pathway. This is being addressed.

	• **P25** Increase the proportion of waste sent for reuse (recycling and composting) to 45% - provisional year-end figure was 43.9%. Impacted by nationwide capacity issues for wood recycling and seasonal impacts to the recycling percentage in winter months.

Long-term Measures of Success	
• 63% of long-term measures of success have improved since previous year baseline (5/8) • 37% of long-term measures of success have **not** improved since previous year baseline (3/8)	
Measures improved since baseline	• **KPI 2** An increase in the proportion of people satisfied with their local area as a place to live – was 75% in Aug 2024 up to 76% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure). • **KPI 3** An increase in footfall in the town centre – was 13.6m in 2024/25, now 14.1m in 2025/26. • **KPI 4** A decrease in the percentage of vacant units in the town centre – was 25% in 2024/25, down to 24% in 2025/26 (lower is better). • **KPI 6** An increase in the proportion of public that feel safe when outside in their local area during the day – was 85% in Aug 2024, up to 86% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure). • **KPI 8** An increase in the percentage of sites classed as (acceptably) free of litter and rubbish – was 88% in 2024/25, up to 95% in 2025/26.
Measures not improved since baseline	• **KPI 1** An increase in the proportion of people satisfied with the Rotherham borough as a place to live – was 66% in Aug 2024 down to 58% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure). • **KPI 5** An increase in the proportion of people optimistic about the future of Rotherham town centre – was 27% in Aug 2024, down to 26% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure). • **KPI 7** An increase in the proportion of public that feel safe when outside in their local area after dark – was 57% in Aug 2024, down to 54% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure).

Outcome: An economy that works for everyone	
Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Actions	
• 93% of actions are complete (13/14) • 7% of actions are delayed by more than 3 months (1/14)	
Actions complete since Quarter 2 report:	• **E1** Start construction on the **Templeborough Business Zone** Project – construction began on site 8 June 2026. • **E2** Support up to 20 businesses to improve shop units through the new **'shop unit grants' programme** – 46 shop unit grants were accepted across the town centre, Dinnington, Maltby, Swinton and Wath. • **E6** Adoption of the **Employment and Skills Strategy** – endorsed by Cabinet on 15 December 2025 and approved by the Strategic Partnership group on 21 January 2026. • **E7** Support a minimum of 455 people to access employment through the **Employment Solutions Service** - 471 people have been supported to access training or paid employment through the Employment Solutions Service. • **E8** Develop and implement an **apprenticeship action plan** - work is ongoing and includes targeted engagement with relevant stakeholders, schools and universities • **E9** Support 25 young people aged 16-25 into paid employment through **internships and traineeships** with Children's Capital of Culture – supported 45 young people into paid employment throughout the festival year. • **E13** Completion of a Strategic Case in relation to the **Rotherham Gateway (Mainline Station)** Masterplan – a Programme Business Case has been completed and submitted to SYMCA in January 2026. • **E14** Work with regional partners to support SYMCA in their work to develop the Outline Business Case for the new **railway station at Waverley** – work is ongoing, with completion expected in March 2027. • **E15** Work with regional partners to support SYMCA in their work to construct a new **tram-train stop at Magna** – the new stop opened to the public on 9 April 2026. • **E16** Consult on draft designs for **City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement** active travel and bus priority proposals on Fitzwilliam Road and Broom Road – consultation commenced in May 2026. • **E17** Develop and deliver a programme of **work experience**, supported internships, apprenticeships and graduate schemes – a programme continues to be implemented and developed through regular engagement with schools, colleges, universities and local businesses, including the introduction of One Council placements across services in the Council.
Actions significantly delayed (by	• **E3** Deliver the programmed upgrades to **business centres** – works are progressing, with roofing works at Century Business Centre starting in June 2026. Fire stopping works at Dinnington Matrix and Century Business

more than 3 months)	Centre are due to commence in July 2026, with plans developed to minimise disruption to tenants and business users. Fire stopping works at Fusion in Templeborough are now complete.

Performance Measures	
• 100% of performance measures have achieved year-end target (3/3)	
Measures that met year-end target	• **E4** Help 70 businesses to start up – 83 businesses were helped to start up through Launchpad and Business Centres. • **E5** Provide advice and support to 500 local businesses – 522 local businesses have received advice and support. • **E12** Increase the proportion of new starter apprenticeships created within the Council as a percentage of the workforce to 1.5% - the proportion of new starter apprenticeships created within the Council increased to 1.68% of the workforce.

Long-term Measures of Success	
• 50% of long-term measures of success have improved since previous year baseline (2/4) • 25% of long-term measures of success have **not** improved since previous year baseline (1/4) • 25% of long-term measures of success are N/A - do not have data for the current reporting period (1/4)	
Measures improved since baseline	• **KPI 10** An improvement in the skills of residents in the borough (% of 16-64 population of Rotherham have an RQF2 or higher) – was 76.8% in Apr 2024, up to 84.3% in Apr 2025. • **KPI 11** An increase in the proportion of the working age population who are in work (or actively looking for work) in Rotherham – was 74.4% in Apr 2024, up to 75.5% in Apr 2025.
Measures not improved since baseline	• **KPI 12** An increase in the number of businesses in Rotherham per 10,000 residents – Was 340 in 2024, down to 329 in 2025.
Measures are N/A – Data unavailable	• **KPI 9** An increase in the value of Rotherham's economy – ONS data due to be published July 2026. There is also a 3-year lag in this data, meaning the impact of any actions in this Council Plan will not be reflected until 2029.

Outcome: Children and young people achieve	
Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Actions	
• 73% of actions are complete (11/15) • 27% of actions are delayed by more than 3 months (4/15)	
Actions complete since Quarter 2 report:	• **C1** Work with children and young people to deliver events throughout 2025 for the **Children's Capital of Culture** - delivered more than 1,000 events and activities, celebrating Rotherham becoming the world's first Children's Capital of Culture. • **C3** Improve **4 play areas** as part of the Children's Playground Programme - improvements took place at Chestnut Grove play area in Dinnington, Rosehill Park Play Area, Thrybergh Country Park and Rother Valley Country Park. • **C4** Submit a bid to The Cruyff Foundation for a **multi-use games area** by Kimberworth Park Partnership – submitted in March 2026. • **C6** Provide food vouchers to children eligible for **free school meals** during the school holidays - 141,748 free school meal vouchers were delivered. • **C9** Support 27 Rotherham secondary schools and colleges to enhance their **career provision** – all schools continue to work closely with the Council's Careers Consultants and the South Yorkshire Careers Hub.
Actions significantly delayed (by more than 3 months)	• **C8** Deliver **independent travel training** to at least 30 children and young people - 20 young people have been trained. Target not met due to issues with staff resources and sign-off delays. A new Independent Travel Training Practitioner has been appointed and capacity has increased. • **C16c** Submitting the registration of a **fifth two-bedroom residential children's home** to make sure Children in Care and young people can stay in the borough – Capital work is now complete but registration remains pending following challenges in recruiting a registered manager. Registration now expected in Quarter 2 2026/27. • **C16d** Submitting the registration of a **sixth two-bedroom residential children's home** to make sure Children in Care and young people can stay in the borough – following engagement with Ward members and residents, additional due diligence was undertaken, which led to the delay in the submission of a planning application. Capital works commenced in May 2026 and submission of registration is now expected Quarter 3 2026/27.

	• **C17** Plan the implementation of the **Families First Partnership Programme and the Family Help Strategy** - the needs assessment has been completed but the threshold document is being designed following engagement with communities to ensure that the language is accessible for families to understand. This is due to be completed in Quarter 2 2026/27.

Performance Measures	
• 83% of performance measures are on target (5/6) • 17% of performance measures are not at expected level (1/6)	
Measures on target	• **C5** Commission the voluntary and community sector to deliver 850+ universal youth work sessions so that young people have access to activities across the borough – a total of 1,356 sessions were delivered across the year. • **C11** Deliver 100% of Baby Packs to eligible Rotherham Families who have requested one – 100% of eligible families who requested a pack have received one. • **C12** Provide health visitor checks to at least 85% of eligible children for their 2-2.5yr checks - 91% of eligible children have received their 2 - 2 1/2-year check in Quarter 4 2025/26. • **C14** Children's Centres to deliver 1,900+ support sessions to families with children aged 0-5 years – a total of 2,762 sessions were delivered across the year. • **C15** Issue 73% of Education, Health and Care Plans within 20 weeks ensuring children receive effective support when needed – 78.3% of plans were issued within 20 weeks.
Measures not at expected level	• **C13** Ensure at least 90% of families register their children within 6 months of birth through **Family Hubs -** 2025/26 year-end figure shows that 80.3% of babies born between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 2025 were registered with a Family Hub within six months of birth.

Long-term Measures of Success	
• 50% of long-term measures of success have improved since previous year baseline (3/6) • 17% of long-term measures of success have **not** improved since previous year baseline (1/6) • 33% of long-term measures of success are N/A - do not have data for the current reporting period (2/6)	
Measures improved since baseline	• **KPI 13** An increase in the proportion of eligible 2-year-olds taking up an early education place as soon as possible – was 86.2% in 2024/25, up to 91.2% in 2025/26.

	• **KPI 17** Maintain the number of suitable homes that are available for care leavers – was 94.1% in 2024/25, up to 94.9% in 2025/26. • **KPI 18** An increase in the proportion of children in care living within 20 miles of home – was 78.2% in 2024/25, up to 81.7% in 2025/26.
Measures not improved since baseline	• **KPI 16 -** An increase in the number of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in mainstream schools – was 42.3% in 2024/25 down slightly to 41.9% in 2025/26. However, it should be noted the number of children with an EHCP educated in mainstream primary and secondary settings has grown from 1,383 to 1,538, though the overall proportion has slightly decreased as the total EHCP population has grown from 3,623 to 4,062. This reflects both rising demand and a deliberate shift in the system towards resourced provision attached to mainstream schools, which has seen a 29% increase in children supported in this way.
Measures are N/A – Data unavailable	• **KPI 14 –** An increase in the proportion of pupils passing the phonics screening in year 1 - Academic year measure • **KPI 15 –** Improve GCSE grades in the borough relative to the national average - Academic year measure

Outcome: Residents live well	
Year Ahead Delivery Plan Actions	
• 95% of actions are complete (19/20) • 5% of actions are delayed by less than 3 months (1/20)	
Actions complete since Quarter 2 report:	• **R1** Commissioned an **Active Hub** (Every Move Counts) to support people with long-term health conditions to access physical activity opportunities. • **R5** Complete the building work for **Castle View Day Service** - building works were completed in May, and the building was formally opened on 11 June 2026. • **R6** Delivered the **Rothercare analogue to digital switchover** for over 5,000 residents - The switchover is now fully complete. Delivery is ahead of the national January 2027 deadline. • **R8** Agreed an updated **Domestic Abuse Strategy -** The refreshed Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy 2026/27-2028/29 was approved by the Safer Rotherham Partnership and endorsed by Cabinet on 13 April 2026. • **R9** Delivered the **Learning Disability Strategy priorities** for 2025 - Supported over 50 residents with Learning Disabilities and Autism into employment-related activity, relaunched the Learning Disability Partnership Board and the Preparing for Adulthood programme continues to embed the voice of young people across all workstreams. • **R10** Deliver the Council's **Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme**, providing up to £126.12 to working households in receipt of council tax support - the scheme has been delivered for 2025/26 with the discount applied to all Council Tax Support claimants. • **R13** Complete the Council new build project at **Warden Street, Canklow –** this was completed in Quarter 4 2025/26. • **R14a** Completed the Council new build project at **Albert Road and Princess Street**. • **R14b** Completed the Council new build project at the Former Ship Inn Site, **Swinton**. • **R14e** Start groundwork on new homes at **Wath** – the scheme started on site in Quarter 4 2025/26. • **R14g** Deliver **75 new Council homes** through acquisition - 85 homes have been delivered through the acquisitions workstreams throughout 2025/26. • **R14h** Bring at least 30 **long term empty homes back into use** through Council support - 36 empty homes have been brought back into use throughout 2025/26, exceeding the target of 30. • **R16** Agree a new **Housing Allocations Policy** – approved by Cabinet in September 2025.

	• **R17** Complete **full stock condition surveys** to 6,000 properties - 6,490 surveys were completed throughout 2025/26.
Actions delayed (by less than 3 months)	• **R14d** Start groundwork on new homes at Eastwood – start on site is take place in Quarter 1 2026/27.

Performance Measures	
• All performance measures have been achieved (7/7).	
Measures on target	• **R3** Provide 8,500 NHS Health Checks for Rotherham Residents – 8,624 Health Checks were delivered. • **R4** Support the Rotherham Ambition for a Smoke Free Rotherham by supporting 1,000 Rotherham residents to set a Quit Date – 1,494 residents have been supported. • **R11** Ensure that a minimum of 70% of Domestic Abuse referrals are actively engaged in any support offered – in Q4 84% of referrals were actively engaged (up from 75% in Q3). • **R12** Increase the proportion of new claims for Housing Benefits and Council Tax Support are dealt with within 14 days of receipt of all necessary information to 98% - at year end the rate was 98.14%. • **R18** Expand the Council's temporary accommodation portfolio to at least 173 homes – the portfolio consisted of 173 homes by the service deadline in Quarter 2. • **R19** Maintain the proportion of council housing repairs completed 'Right 1st time' to achieve at least 93% - the position at year end was 95.4%. • **R20** 50% of council homes to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) C energy performance rating – the year end position was 61.1%.

Long-term Measures of Success	
• 33.3% of long-term measures of success have improved since previous year baseline (2/6) • 33.3% of long-term measures of success have **not** improved since previous year baseline (2/6) • 33.3% of long-term measures of success are N/A - do not have data for the current reporting period (2/6)	
Measures improved since baseline	• **KPI 20** An increase in the proportion of adults who felt their Safeguarding outcomes were at least partially met – was 97.0% in 2024/25, up to 97.6% in 2025/26. • **KPI 22** An increase in the proportion of households supported who were prevented or relieved from homelessness. – Was 85.2% in 2025/26, up to 89% in 2025/26.
Measures not improved since baseline	• **KPI 23** An increase in the number of new homes delivered with council support – In 2025/26 the council delivered 184 council homes as part of a smaller programme compared to the previous year (213). As this is lower than the number of homes in the year previous, it is marked as not improved, however this is in line with the approach to deliver 1,000 council homes. • **KPI 24** An increase in the proportion of council homes meeting 'Decent Homes' standard – In 2024/25 result was 92%, down slightly to 92.4% in 2025/26.
Measures are N/A – Data unavailable	• **KPI 19** An increase in the proportion of adults supported by social care who feel they have control over their daily life - data from the Department of Health and Social Care is due Autumn 2026. • **KPI 21** An increase in the number of people supported to live healthier lifestyles through weight management and help to stop smoking - a combined total of 3,487 interventions were delivered in 2025/26, creating the baseline for this measure.

Social Care Performance Measures	
• 58% of measures are currently on target (7/12) • 17% of measures are not applicable in Quarter 4 (2/12) • 25% of measures do not have a target (3/12)	
Measures on target	• **SC2** Number of new admissions to residential care homes for older people as a rate per 100K population. • **SC3** Number of new admissions to residential care homes for older people. 116 new admissions of older people into residential care, 34 over the quarter 2 target of 82. • **SC4** Proportion of Adults who were enabled to be independent after short term at home support. • **SC6** Number of 0-17year old children who are a Child in Need as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population. • **SC7** Number of 0-17year old children with a child protection plan as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population. • **SC8** Number of 0-17year old children in care as a rate per 10,000 of the Rotherham 0-17yrs population. • **SC12** Proportion of children and young people being referred to social care services for a second of subsequent time within 12 months.

Outcome 5: One Council that listens and learns	
Year Ahead Delivery Plan - Actions	
• 79% of actions are complete (11/14) • 21% of actions are delayed by more than 3 months (3/14)	
Actions complete since Quarter 2 report:	• **1** Increased the number of services available digitally by implementing **calendar booking and payment upfront online** functions including digitalising pest control appointments – Throughout 2025/26, 169 new online forms were created with a further 167 amended or updated. • **6** Refresh the Council's **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy** – the strategy was renamed the Inclusion Strategy and agreed at Cabinet in February 2026 following consultation. • **7** Develop and launch a **new Rotherham Plan** for the Rotherham Together Partnership – this was endorsed by partner organisations in May and launched at the Rotherham Together Partnership showcase in June. • **8** Deliver the next phase of a staff and Elected Member learning and development programme for **strengths-based working** – training for 80 staff members took place during July 2025 and a Community of Practice has been established for continued staff development and support. • **9** Procure and implement **new consultation software** to improve the Council's approach to consultation – the new system went live from 1 April 2026, pilots were undertaken in Quarter 4. • **10** Embed the **Rotherham Adult Social Care Always Listening Co-Production Board** (RASCAL) within the approach to change across adult social care – the RASCAL Board meets monthly and played a key role in co-producing the next Adult Social Care Strategy. • **11** Co-design a new look **tenant engagement framework** that strengthens tenant influence – the framework is live on the Council website following a series of engagement sessions. • **13** Refresh of the Council's **recruitment approach** – in Quarter 4 the Council attended 19 careers and employability events, received 112 work placement applications (resulting in 61 placement offers across 16 services) and saw an increase in applications from 15.25% in Quarter 4 2023/24 to 15.86% in Quarter 4 2025/26. • **15** Deliver 10 engagement events with education establishments and communities to improve awareness and **promote the benefits of renewables**, carbon reduction, energy management and green skills and jobs – a total of 30 events have taken place.

	• **16** Develop a full business case for the procurement and delivery of a **Local Area Energy Plan** for Rotherham – a business case has been created, followed by the inclusion of this project within the Climate Emergency Annual Report. • **17** Work with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to progress the next phase of the **Public EV Infrastructure Strategy** and identify an external funding source – a funding source and proposed approach has been identified and SYMCA will now be responsible for publishing this in Quarter 1 2026/27.
Actions significantly delayed (by more than 3 months)	• **2** Implement a **new IT system** (Confirm) – delayed due to the complexity of data development, cleansing, analysis and migration, alongside competing operational demands. The remaining elements are now planned for delivery during 2026. • **12** Complete **Employee Opinion Survey** 2025 and increase the participation rate to greater than 50% - survey was delivered in accordance with timescales and achieved 49% completion rate (1% below the action target) with outcomes communicated with Council staff, Elected Members and Trade Unions. • **14 Install two solar (PV) panels** on five town centre properties – procurement activity is ongoing to identify solar suppliers, to now include installations. By bringing this into one procurement, it will create delays on this scheme but will provide economies of scale/better value for money and a more proactive approach to future installations. Completion is now expected Quarter 3 2026/27.

Performance Measures	
• 33% performance measures are on target (1/3) • 67% performance measures are off target (2/3)	
Measures on target	• **4** Respond to 85% or above of complaints closed within timescales - target met with year-end figure at 85%.
Measures off target	• **3** Customer telephone wait time in the corporate contact centre to under 3 minutes. Wait times at year end were 4 minutes 31 seconds, Quarter 4 was challenging with weather events and staff numbers. Staff levels have now been increased to an appropriate level but due to training time, this did not have a positive impact on call wait times during the quarter. • **5** Reduce the number of complaints relating to street cleaning, grounds maintenance and waste management to less than 190. The number of complaints at year end was 411, 183 relate to Waste Management. The service has experienced significant change during 2025/26, which disrupted

	service delivery. While stabilisation plans are expected to reduce complaints, the introduction of a new complaints process and resident form may result in higher reported numbers.

Long-term Measures of Success	
• 71% of long-term measures of success have improved since previous year baseline (10/14) • 22% of long-term measures of success have **not** improved since previous year baseline (3/14) • 7% of long-term measures of success are N/A - do not have data for the current reporting period (1/14)	
Measures improved since baseline	• **KPI 25** An increase in the proportion of residents who feel that the Council keeps them informed – up from 45% in Aug 2024 to 50% in Jan 2026. • **KPI 27b** An increase in satisfaction with street cleaning – up from 48% in Aug 2024 to 51% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure). • **KPI 27c** An increase in satisfaction with road maintenance – up from 29% in Aug 2024 to 33% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure). • **KPI 27d** An increase in satisfaction with pavement maintenance – up from 41% in Aug 2024 to 44% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure). • **KPI 27e** An increase in satisfaction with library services – up from 52% in Aug 2024 to 57% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure). • **KPI 27f** An increase in satisfaction with sport and leisure services – up from 40% in Aug 2024 to 49% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure). • **KPI 27g** An increase in satisfaction with services and support for older people – up from 38% in Aug 2024 to 39% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure). • **KPI 27h** An increase in satisfaction with services and support for children and young people – up from 33% in Aug 2024 to 38% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure). • **KPI27i** An increase in satisfaction with parks and green spaces – up from 65% in Aug 2024 to 71% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure). • **KPI 29** The Council's workforce is more representative of the borough's population *[Overall proportion of employees]* – Between 2024/25 and 2025/26, the proportion of Council employees has increased; disabled 10.6% to 11.30%, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) 5.6% to 6.42%, and under 25s 3.40% to 3.49%.
Measures not improved since baseline	• **KPI 26** An increase in the proportion of residents who feel that the Council acts on their concerns – down from 52% in Aug 2024, to 41% in Jan 2026.

	• **KPI 27a** An increase in satisfaction with waste collection – down from 89% in Aug 2024 to 70% in Jan 2026 (Resident Satisfaction survey measure). • **KPI 28** An increase in satisfaction with the Council as a housing landlord – down from 78.2% in 2025/26 to 77.6% in 2025/26.
Measures are N/A – Data unavailable	• **KPI 30** A reduction in the Council's net carbon produced by operational activities, such as through vehicle emissions and energy used in our buildings – data available in Q2 2026/27.

Appendix 3

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update – Year-end Report for 2025/26.	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): June 2026	
Directorate: Policy, Strategy and Engagement	**Service area:** Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Lead Manager: Katie Stead	**Contact:** katie.stead@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: [X] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance		
Name	**Organisation**	**Role (e.g. service user, managers, service specialist)**
Katie Stead	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Policy, Improvement and Risk Manager
Chloe Harrop	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Corporate Improvement Officer
Oscar Holden	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Corporate Improvement Officer

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The Council Plan 2025-2030 is a key document which sets out the Council's vision for the borough and priorities for serving residents and communities. This plan provides the medium-term basis for targeting resources, informing the budget-setting process and planning cycles, and ensuring that residents can hold the Council to account for delivery. The plan runs until the end of March 2030.

A Year Ahead Delivery Plan is produced annually to ensure progress is made towards delivering the outcomes in the Council Plan. The Year Ahead Delivery Plan for 2025-26 was agreed by Cabinet in May 2025 and ran until the end of March 2026. This is the second progress report to Cabinet for the 2025-26 financial year and summarises the year-end position.

The report focuses on progress made in delivering the 89 priority actions and meeting the 27 headline performance measures contained within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. It also summarises performance against a suite of long-term measures of success. It brings together wider information, key facts and intelligence to explain how the Council is working and performing, including timelines and case studies to demonstrate impact.

Through directorate and service-level business plans the Council carries out wider work to measure performance and quality. This report is intended to provide an overview of the contribution that the Council makes across all its activities to improving Rotherham as a place to live, work and spend time.

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

A mix of contextual equalities information, such as the census, and consultation on the Council Plan 2025-30 is provided here.

Population

- The borough's population is ageing with 54,357 residents aged 65 or over (2024 mid-year population estimates). At 19.7% of the total population, an increasing proportion of residents fall within this age bracket, which is also above the national average of 18.7%. This proportion of the population aged 65 or over is forecast to increase further to around 21% by 2030, with a particularly large increase in the number of people aged over 75.

- Population estimates suggest the population is continuing to increase in its diversity. The 2021 census indicates the proportion of residents from ethnic minority communities increased from 8.1% in 2011 to 11.7% in 2021. The Pakistani community is the second largest ethnic group in Rotherham after White British, with 3.8% of residents in 2021 and 6.3% of school pupils in 2024/25.

- Rotherham's ethnic minority population is highly concentrated within the inner areas of the town centre in areas such as Boston Castle, Rotherham East and Rotherham West where 63.3% of the residents across the three wards are from White British backgrounds. The outer areas of Rotherham, however, are 93.6% White British in 2021. 39.7% of residents from ethnic minority backgrounds live in areas that are amongst the most deprived 10% in England with that figure increasing for certain backgrounds (Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2025). Whereas 21.4% of the borough's total population lives in the 10% most deprived areas.

- There is a decreasing trend in the number of residents who hold religious beliefs. In the 2021 Census, 39.8% of residents identified as holding no religious beliefs, compared to 22.5% in 2011. The number of people reporting Christianity as their religion has decreased from 66.5% in 2011 to 49% in 2021. The number of people reporting their religion as Muslim has increased from 3.7% in 2011 to 5.1% in 2021.

Economy

- 22% of Rotherham residents live within the 10% most deprived areas of England and the borough is amongst the 14% most deprived local authority areas in England. 17,772 children were living in "absolute low income families (before housing costs)" (Department for Work and Pensions, 2024/25).

- According to the Office of National Statistics Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings in 2025, Rotherham women's gross full-time earnings averaged £572 per week, which equates to 75% of men's full-time earnings locally and 80.4% of women's full-time earnings nationally.

- During the 2024 Council Plan consultation as part of the counter exercise, the majority of respondents (90.3%) agreed that the Council should help to create new jobs, compared to not delivering this service (9.7%).

Health and wellbeing

- The 2021 Census recorded Rotherham as having 56,177 residents with a long-term health problem or disability with 9.8% responding that this limits their activity a lot, above the England average of 7.3%. There was an overall decrease in people with a disability from 12% in 2011 to 9.9% in 2021, but despite this health inequality remains.

- Life expectancy in the most deprived areas of Rotherham is 9.9 years lower for men and 9.5 years lower for women than in the least deprived. Gaps in healthy life expectancy are greater at over 18 years for men and nearly 20 years for women.

Resident Satisfaction Survey

The Council Plan 2025-2030 includes performance measures from the Resident Satisfaction Survey. The 2026 survey results are set out below:

- **Satisfaction with Local Area as a Place to Live** – 76% of respondents reported feeling 'very satisfied' or 'fairly satisfied' with their local area as a place to live. This is higher than the national average (72%) and regional average (67%).

- **Satisfaction with Rotherham as a Place to Live** – 59% of respondents said that, overall, they were 'very' or 'fairly' satisfied. Respondents aged 18-24 (64%) and older respondents aged 65 and over (64%) were most likely to feel satisfied with Rotherham as a place to live. Respondents aged 25-34 (53%) had the lowest level of satisfaction with Rotherham as a place to live. Dissatisfaction with Rotherham as a place to live was highest amongst people aged 45-54.

- **Feelings of Safety** – 86% of respondents in Rotherham said they felt 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' during the day when outside in their local area. Feelings of safety in the local area after dark were 54%. A similar percentage of men (87%) and women (85%) felt 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' during the day. There was a significant difference between men and women's feelings of safety after dark – 61% of men but only 48% of women said they felt 'very safe' or 'fairly safe'.

- **Feelings of Optimism** – 54% of respondents reported feeling 'very optimistic' or 'fairly optimistic' about the future of Rotherham as a place to live, the average result for this indicator across all surveys. Younger respondents (aged 18-24) were the most likely to be optimistic about the future of Rotherham as a place to live (65%) and respondents aged 55-64 years were least optimistic (47%). Fewer respondents felt optimistic about the future of Rotherham Town centre, with 26% of respondents across the borough either 'very optimistic' or 'fairly optimistic'. 38% of respondents were not optimistic about the town centre. People aged 35-44 years were the most optimistic about the future of Rotherham town centre (34%).

- **Keeping Residents Informed** – 50% of Rotherham respondents said that the Council keeps residents 'very well' or 'fairly well' informed about the services and benefits it provides. This is similar to the most recent national result (49%) and regional result (48%). Younger respondents aged 18-24 (60%) and older respondents aged 65+ (55%) were most likely to think that the Council keeps residents well informed. It should be noted that this measure covers not only corporate communications but could also refer to face to face or any other types of council touchpoint that the customer experiences.

- **Responsiveness of Rotherham MBC** – 41% of respondents in Rotherham answered positively when asked about the extent to which the Council acts on the concerns of residents (i.e 'a great deal' or 'a fair amount'). This is the lowest response across all surveys and lower than both the national average (53%) and regional average (50%).

- **Provision of Value for Money** – 35% of respondents would 'tend to agree' or 'strongly agree' that the Council provides value for money. This is the lowest result for this indicator across all surveys and lower than the percentage observed nationally (38%) and regionally (36%). 32% of respondents expressed a neutral opinion.

Year Ahead Delivery Plan

When the Year Ahead Delivery Plan undergoes its annual refresh, services are expected to set out the action to be taken to ensure consideration of equality, diversity, and inclusion, including timescales for the delivery of each individual milestone. These actions are reviewed as part of the milestone setting process and progress captured as part of the reporting process.

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?

Promoting equality, celebrating diversity, and ensuring fairness for everyone runs throughout all the outcomes in the Council Plan and associated Year Ahead Delivery Plan. Updates are obtained from directorates in relation to actions being taken to consider equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) for each of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions. EDI has also been built into the case study templates for officers to obtain specific examples.

However, some updates are still lacking detail with regards to actions/activities to gain a better understanding of communities and the equality data being collected and used to better inform activities, along with gaps. It therefore remains unclear, for some areas, how outcomes for different communities and protected characteristic groups are being improved.

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

Progress updates on the Council Plan Year Ahead Delivery Plan are produced on a quarterly basis (twice internally and twice publicly in January and July). Public updates are reviewed by Cabinet and Scrutiny and are available online. The update reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny include progress in relation to actions within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan, as well as performance relating to a suite of key measures and case studies.

As part of this monitoring process, services are required to specifically set out progress on the delivery of equalities, diversity and inclusion outcomes for each individual action in the Year Ahead Delivery Plan. These updates are reviewed and challenged as part of the monitoring process. They are reported as part of the internal monitoring and are also used to inform the public monitoring reports.

In addition, as the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities are implemented, services are required to complete an equality screening and/or analysis. This is to ensure due regard has been given and that there is an understanding of the effects of a strategy, policy, service or function on those from a protected characteristic group, where this is applicable to do so.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	To help inform the priorities and actions in the Council Plan 2025-2030, various consultation exercises took place between September and November 2024. There were 1,963 interactions across all engagement methods. The consultation was part of an ongoing dialogue between the Council and members of the public. Engagement with residents took place through a variety of ways including online and postal surveys, focus groups and short interaction exercises to inform the Council and its partners' priorities over the next few years. The results have been analysed, and the findings were presented to Council, alongside the new Council Plan in May 2025. Customers are consulted and engaged with in different ways by services when delivering the Year Ahead Delivery Plan activities. The performance measures monitored include resident satisfaction and a resident satisfaction survey is conducted annually. Between October 2025 and January 2026, a

	statistically representative random sample of 500 Rotherham residents (aged 18 or over) was polled by telephone using quotas set by age and gender. The data was further weighted to reflect the age, gender, and social grade profile of Rotherham. This ensures that the sample is as representative of adults in the borough as possible, as there is often a bias in the profile of people who respond to any survey. See results from the 2026 survey above. Some performance measures are based on customer perceptions of the quality of the service received.
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s)consulted and key findings)	Staff at all levels were consulted in the development of the new Council Plan 2025-30. Engagement with key directorate colleagues is ongoing, in the development of the Year Ahead Delivery Plans and through quarterly progress reviews for applicable actions / milestones and performance metrics. Staff also provide case studies for the year-end reports. The headlines were shared with the Service Director Group (21 May), Strategic Leadership Team (26 May) and Leader (27 May) for feedback prior to drafting the report for Cabinet. Wider Leadership events and staff briefing sessions also include highlights in relation to the process for all staff awareness.

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

Equalities is cross cutting throughout the Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan. Of the five outcomes, two specifically aim to meet residents' and communities' differentiated needs:

- An economy that works for everyone
- Residents live well.

Residents live well encompasses the Council's priority to tackle inequality, striving to ensure that the health and life chances of the most disadvantaged communities are improving the fastest. This will be done by striving to achieve the best outcomes for local people, involving local residents in the things that matter to them and services are designed based on input from those who use them as well as tangible outputs such as the quality of homes and health and wellbeing of residents.

To complement this approach, an economy that works for everyone ensures that it connects residents to opportunity, providing work and education opportunities in an inclusive manner that meets the needs of its population.

There is also a priority focussed on helping people to feel safe in their community within the 'places are thriving, safe and clean' outcome. This involves providing support to our communities at a level that is proportionate to the degree of need, taking a universal approach where appropriate, whilst also providing targeted support to those who need it the most.

Furthermore, the underlying 'One Council' outcome encompasses two specific areas, which ensure different needs are met:

- Better customer experience
- Working in partnership with our communities.

The Council's commitment to place all customers at the heart of service delivery includes a strengthened approach to equalities and inclusivity. This will involve working with services and partners to promote equality, celebrate diversity and ensure fairness for everyone. The commitment to work in partnership with our communities embodies our commitment to utilising a strengths-based approach to improve the council's response to diverse customer needs, by bringing a more differentiated understanding of equality and diversity considerations and barriers.

The six-monthly progress reports capture progress in relation to all activities within the Year Ahead Delivery Plan and a suite of key performance measures.

Within the **five outcomes of the Council Plan**, a series of universal offers are aimed at all of Rotherham's residents, while several actions are specifically aimed at tackling inequalities and issues of access. The following expands both on the universal and the targeted offers within each theme.

Places are thriving, safe and clean
Activities in this area are aimed at creating neighbourhoods where people feel safe, proud, and connected, while ensuring public spaces are well maintained and vibrant. The priorities of helping people to feel safe in their community, creating vibrant communities, better public spaces and revitalising the town centre are for the benefit of all residents regardless of protected characteristics. Residents, organisations and businesses are encouraged and enabled to use their skills and resources to help others.

Individual services, such as parks, libraries, cultural offers and neighbourhood working will each undertake an equality analysis, where required, to identify gaps, making sure that any physical, cultural, language or other access barriers are identified, and all residents have offers meeting their needs.

Progress made which links to improving equality, diversity and inclusion outcomes include:

- Tackle hate crime incidents and the drivers of hate crime through the delivery of education and engagement group and individual sessions: 37 group sessions were delivered throughout 2025/26, reaching 991 children and young people. 98 one-to-one interventions were delivered to individuals involved in or at risk of perpetrating hate crime.

- 10 ward reports have been provided to Council from July 2025, which have been informed by local communities. Ward profiles and census data (including details of communities with protected characteristics) have informed the development of ward plans. Ongoing conversations with Rotherham's communities have identified and recognised their strengths, understood what is important to them and jointly agreed how to tackle those priorities, including the delivery of integrated, accessible, and responsive services that meet diverse needs.

- Delivered cultural events in varied locations throughout the borough throughout 2025/26, including events such as: Rotherham Show, Signals Festival, Uplift, WoW Rotherham, Christmas Lights' Switch On, and support for ward-based community galas and festivals. There is a year-round programme of events which is underpinned by a series of programming principles which ensure events are accessible, representative of their communities and inclusive to all. This is achieved through measures including: British Sign Language interpreters for spoken word events and talks, ramp access for performance stages, ensuring representation in the creative programme, creative partnerships with target groups such as SENSE to deliver provision for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) at events, Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance (REMA) to engage a more diverse range of communities for Rotherham Show and specific targeting of women, girls, trans and non-binary communities at WOW Rotherham.

- Delivered the Cohesion Grant fund with a range of partners across the borough to support local communities. This included a broad range of activity, bringing different communities together around different shared activities and interests. Some of this activity was also re-designed to mark St Georges Day, this included funding, through a small grants programme, a range of events to include communities across the borough.

- Completed redevelopment works at Rother Valley and Thrybergh Country Park, this included accessible public pathways and new toilet facilities for disabled customers at Rother Valley.

An economy that works for everyone

Aims for this theme include developing the economy, enhancing skills, and connecting people to opportunities.

Contributing to these aims are a range of regeneration projects for businesses in Rotherham, supporting residents to gain skills and enhance their employment prospects, and the creation of more working opportunities for residents.

Equality analysis and monitoring will be carried out where appropriate to ensure vulnerable residents sharing protected characteristics benefit from this support.

Activity that links to improving equality, diversity and inclusion outcomes includes:

- Developed and implemented an apprenticeship action plan to support the growth of apprenticeships across the borough. Ongoing engagement with employers, schools, universities and diverse communities helps to reduce barriers to employment and increase access to apprenticeships for underrepresented groups.

- Supported 45 young people aged 16-25 into paid employment through traineeships and internships as part of the Children's Capital of Culture Programme. This programme is supported with an Equalities Impact Assessment, which focuses on ensuring that opportunities can be accessed by more marginalised groups including working with care experienced young people to provide pathways into employment.

- Implemented an Economic Inactivity Trailblazer to provide targeted support for economically inactive residents facing barriers to employment. Launched in April 2025, the programme aims to improve equality of opportunity by helping participants overcome challenges that may prevent them from accessing work, supporting progression towards sustainable employment. By the end of March 2026, 87 participants had successfully been supported into paid employment.

- Developed and delivered a programme of work experience, supported internships, apprentices and graduate schemes to ensure effective career pathways and succession planning. Increasing the number of opportunities across the borough will inform work to consider how best those from underrepresented communities and demographics can be encouraged and supported.

Children and young people achieve

Actions under this theme are aimed at ensuring that children and young people have fun things to do, enabling children and young people to thrive, and keeping children and young people safe from harm.

Activities aim to address educational inequalities through collaborative working with schools and partners, so all children are ready to attend school, learn and engage in future education, training, and employment. This will give all young people the opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of ability.

Some actions specifically target support to those who are disadvantaged, vulnerable or have disabilities. Specific actions to open new in-house residential children's homes will enable looked after children to access the best local placements whilst other actions aim to improve opportunities and outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), so they can get the best start in life. Activities for young people to have fun things to do have also been designed so that accessibility is ensured as much as possible.

Progress made which links to improving equality, diversity and inclusion outcomes include:

- Worked with children and young people across the borough to deliver events throughout the 2025 Festival Year, celebrating Rotherham becoming the world's first Children's Capital of Culture through more than 1,000 events and activities. The programme promoted inclusion and equality of access by supporting children and young people from diverse backgrounds to participate in initiatives including the Youth Programming Panel, Arts Awards and volunteering schemes. Particular efforts were made to engage groups who may face additional barriers to participation, including home educated children and young people through the Arts Award programme, and neurodiverse children and young people through targeted school-based activity.

- Submitted a bid to The Cruyff Foundation for a multi-use games area in the borough. Consultation has taken place between Clifton Learning Partnership and Kimberworth Community Partnership to ensure that the new facility is accessible, recognising the needs of women and girls, disabled people and low income-families.

- Provided 141,748 free school meal vouchers to support families during the school holidays, in line with the package of measures agreed through the Household Support Fund. Free School Meals are means tested and provide a targeted level of support for pupils from low socio-economic background. Schools provide support to families to ensure all eligible families can access this entitlement. An Equality Screening Assessment was also completed as part of the Cabinet report and budget monitoring arrangements in place for this funding.

- Completed building work on the Special Educational Needs and Disability centre at Eric Manns, and Rotherham Parent Carers Forum are now occupying the building and delivering services within the community. This includes providing adequate meeting and

office space that will assist in the Parent Carers Forum and the Council working in Partnership and delivering positive outcomes for young people and their families.

- Supported 27 Rotherham secondary schools and colleges to enhance their careers provision. Consultation on the project is the responsibility of South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, who run the Careers Hub for the whole of South Yorkshire. All schools are supported through the project.

- Published a No Family Left Behind *(Rotherham's Commitment to Addressing Child Poverty)* Strategy in September 2025, championing initiatives and aligning stakeholders to address child poverty. The Child Poverty rate in Rotherham is 31% (2023/24). The wards with the highest number of children living in relative low-income families are Rotherham East Ward (2,445), Boston Castle Ward (1,614) and Rotherham West Ward (1,418). Harnessing resources to prevent and reduce the impact of poverty will improve the life chances and experiences of children affected.

Residents live well
Actions in this outcome are aimed at supporting better physical and mental wellbeing, assisting people to live independently, safe, and well, and to provide good quality, affordable homes for all. Within the priority for assisting people to live independently, safe, and well, actions focus on people with learning disabilities, independent living and adult social care ensuring that the needs of these vulnerable groups are prioritised. Notably, in this area, a range of engagement and co-production exercises have been undertaken, with a range of diverse communities, to ensure that their views are considered in service design and delivery and their needs are met. This is central to improving accessibility and enabling inclusive services.

More generally, ongoing monitoring and improvement of services contributing to this theme is key, as the most vulnerable often face the most barriers. Monitoring should identify and address gaps in provision, and ensure that individuals sharing several protected characteristics, and potentially facing multiple barriers, can access the support they need.

Progress made which links to improving equality, diversity and inclusion outcomes include:

- Commissioned an Active Hub to establish referral support for people with long-term health conditions to access physical activity opportunities. The Active Hub has been established to support those with the opportunity to benefit clinically from physical activity. From October 2025, anyone with a long-term health condition who is currently inactive can self-refer or be referred by a healthcare professional.

- Launch a specialised support service for people who have attempted suicide. The service focuses on those who have attempted suicide and will increase local understanding of the risks to inform wider suicide prevention approaches. The Hub offers a flexible, tailored approach to each referral and assessments can be done in-person (in community venues) or by phone, to ensure they are accessible to everyone.

- The building work for Castle View Day Service was completed and opened in June. People with lived experience, carers and staff were involved in shaping both the building design and service model to ensure the environment meets the needs of people with high and complex support needs. This has informed accessible layout
design, sensory-considerate spaces, and facilities that support dignity, independence and safety for people with a range of physical and cognitive needs.

- Delivered the Rothercare analogue to digital switchover for over 5,000 residents. A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed to ensure people with care and support needs can continue to utilise Rothercare post the digital switchover.

- The refreshed Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences Strategy (2026/27-2028/29) was approved by the Safer Rotherham Partnership and endorsed by Cabinet on 13 April 2026. The refreshed strategy will continue to improve the support available to victims and the actions taken to address perpetrators of violence and abuse. Domestic abuse (DA) causes isolation and exclusion, and by tackling domestic abuse, the wellbeing and life chances of victims and survivors is improved. Equality monitoring of DA services ensures that any barriers to access and engagement in services experienced by people from protected characteristic groups is identified and remedial actions taken. A new Equality Analysis was prepared to go alongside the Cabinet report.

- Delivered the Learning Disability Strategy priorities for 2025, which included additional funding for Supported Employment to increase capacity to support up to 100 additional residents with Learning Disabilities and Autism, improving access to employment opportunities for groups who may face barriers to work. Over 50 residents have already been supported into employment-related activity. Governance of the Learning Disability Strategy has also been strengthened through the relaunch of the Learning Disability Partnership Board and the establishment of a dedicated voice forum to ensure lived experience informs service development. The Preparing for Adulthood programme also continues to embed the views of young people, with targeted engagement helping to shape more inclusive services and improve transition experiences.

- Delivered the Council's Local Council Tax Support Top Up scheme throughout 2025/26, providing up to £126 to working households in receipt of council tax support. Access to the scheme is governed by the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme which was approved by Cabinet with its own equality impact assessment. The scheme is open to those residents who are financially vulnerable and due to the criteria outlined in the Council's Local Council Tax Support policy are eligible for support. The Council ensures that a wider variety to access the support are available.

- Continued delivery of the Council's Home Delivery Programme through new build developments across the borough, supporting the provision of affordable and accessible housing to meet diverse local needs. The programme responds to strategic challenges including housing affordability, homelessness and diverse need within the borough by delivering a mix of one-bedroom homes, larger homes, bungalows, accessible and adaptable properties for households with additional needs and wheelchair users, and accommodation designed to support older people to live independently for longer.

One Council that listens and learns

The One Council theme is focussed around ensuring a better customer experience, working in partnership with our communities, and supporting a workforce that is ambitious. The theme includes priorities and outcomes that reflect how the Council is delivering effective customer services, ensuring residents can access the services that they need, along with an engaged, diverse, and skilled workforce who are empowered to meet the needs of all customers.

The following areas have progressed which have a direct impact on improving equality, diversity, and inclusion outcomes:

- The Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, now renamed the Inclusion Strategy, was agreed at Cabinet in February 2026. This followed consultation with

residents and community groups across the borough. The strategy sets out a clear ambition to reduce barriers to participation in all aspects of life across the borough. It is structured around four equality objectives: working together, responsive services, welcoming places, and becoming an employer of choice.

- The Rotherham Adult Social Care Always Listening Co-Production Board (RASCAL) continues to meet monthly and is now well embedded within Adult Social Care's approach to service change. The Board is co-chaired by a member with lived experience alongside the Co-Production Lead, strengthening shared ownership and ensuring effective governance. RASCAL has played a key role in co-producing the next Adult Social Care Strategy, including shaping the approach to community engagement. A clear process is in place to ensure that any adult social care work with potential impact on people who draw on services, carers, families or friends is considered through the RASCAL board, providing assurance that lived experience and customer voice are meaningfully captured and used to inform decision-making.

- Co-designed a new tenant engagement framework that strengthens tenant influence in Rotherham and empowers tenants to effectively shape council housing services. Participation was encouraged from a diverse range of tenants and offered tailored support to remove barriers to participation. Workshops were delivered both online and in-person, ensuring accessibility and flexibility. A dedicated online session was also delivered for autistic tenants, shaped around their communication preferences and needs.

- The Workforce Plan sets out a key action to become an employer of choice, including a review of how the Council attracts, recruits, develops, and retains staff from different sections of the community.

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?
No problems or barriers have been identified or flagged as part of the reporting process.

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?
Yes, as detailed above.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)
No negative impacts expected – any targeted activities are based on known needs and vulnerabilities.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update – Year-End Report for 2025/26.
Directorate and service area: Policy, Strategy and Engagement; Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Lead Manager: Katie Stead
Summary of findings:
The Year Ahead Delivery Plan addresses inequalities in several of its key themes, including the overarching theme 'One Council' and guiding principles, with the aim to reduce inequalities and for the council's services to deliver for all residents. Equality and access data will need to be monitored closely, especially in the 'People are safe, healthy and well' and 'Everyone has economic opportunities' themes, as these are areas of considerable existing inequalities, which will make it more difficult for some individuals and groups to access opportunities and services.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
Continue to provide update reports to Cabinet twice a year, including consideration of the equality implications.	All	Six monthly
All services to undertake equality analyses where applicable and monitor.	All	Ongoing
Continue to obtain updates from directorates, regarding what has been done to consider equalities when delivering the Year Ahead Delivery Plan actions/activities.	All	Quarterly

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Chris Paddock	Interim Strategic Director of Policy, Strategy and Engagement	16 June 2026
Cllr Chris Read	Leader of the Council	22 June 2026

7. Publishing	
The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.	
Date Equality Analysis completed	09/06/26
Report title and date	Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update – Year-end Report for 2025/26. Cabinet 6 July
Date report sent for publication	22/06/26
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	15/06/26

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	Unknown	The Council continues to invest £300k in community facilities across the borough to sustain and increase the participation, activities and engagement within them. This includes the Black Hut and Oaklea Retreat. Development of a full business case for the procurement and delivery of a Local Area Energy Plan for Rotherham, including a review of potential external funding opportunities will identify opportunities for decarbonisation.	The Council has supported 46 businesses to improve shop units in the town centre and on other principal high streets through the new 'shop units grant' programme which will incur carbon emissions due to construction processes.	Climate Impact Assessments required for all Cabinet reports.	All emissions from operational buildings are monitored and reported publicly. Borough-wide emissions are reported on annually, with a two-year lag.
Emissions from transport?	Unknown	The Fleet Replacement Plan is underway with 23 vehicles received and another 11 vehicles currently progressing through procurement. The Independent Travel Training Programme has trained 20 young people	Work has continued with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority regarding the development of the Transforming Cities Fund programme. The new tram-train stop at Magna opened in April 2026. The Strategic Case for the Mainline Station Project is completed. All these	Climate Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.	All council transport emissions are monitored and reported publicly. Borough-wide emissions are reported on annually, with a two-year lag.

		with special educational needs or disabilities who would normally access the Council's Home to School transport services. This initiative is promoting more sustainable travel and transport solutions.	schemes are expected to reduce transport emissions. As part of the Local Neighbourhood and Road Safety Programme, schemes in 8 out of 12 wards are being developed to detailed design phase. The 20 mph zones which work to decrease emissions are included in these schemes. Work is progressing with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to progress the next phase of the public EV (electric vehicle) infrastructure strategy and identify an external funding source. The Employment Solutions Service has supported 842 people to access employment which will result in an increase of carbon emissions related to commuting and job industry emissions.		
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Decrease	The proportion of waste sent for reuse (recycling and composting) for 2025/26 is 43.9% against the target of 45% but is an increase on the 37.1% reused in 2024/25. This is slightly below the target for	There may also be increased waste generated as part of construction schemes though it is not currently possible to quantify this.	Improved information and data to take further action in reducing waste, improving recycling rates and reducing contamination.	The council monitors and reports on waste and recycling data.

		the year; however, the data is provisional and the finalised recycling rate figures are based on the three months previous so figures are likely to change and will be updated as/when they are received. Data now also includes Household Waste Recycling Centre recycling.		Climate Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.	
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	Decrease	The Council's temporary accommodation portfolio has expanded by 173 homes, which will increase emissions through having a higher number of domestic properties in use throughout the borough. The commitment to provide the remaining planned children's in-house residential homes to meet the needs of Rotherham children in care and help make sure they stay in the borough has seen the opening of a third, and fourth, two-bedroom home, which will have a carbon impact in the near future. The fifth and sixth two-bedroom homes are due to open in 2026/27.	The Council brought 36 long term empty homes back into use, which will increase Carbon emissions through having an increased number of domestic properties in use throughout the borough. The Council has delivered 85 new homes through acquisition either from the private sector housebuilders or direct from the open market. These houses will incur an increase in emissions from domestic buildings, however in the case of buildings being taken up by existing residents this may not be significantly different to current domestic emissions from those residents. The new homes include: • Under-floor heating – improves the efficiency of	The proportion of council housing with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated C is 61.1%, which has exceeded its target of 50%. A programme is being developed to deliver the warmer homes funding to improve energy efficiency of circa 1,100 properties over the next three years. Climate Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.	Work is ongoing to establish housing stock emission baselines, consolidating the available intelligence and gathering further data as required, using existing data on council-owned housing stock, and developing intelligence on the wider housing stock across the Borough.

		The Council continues plans to install two solar (PV) panels on five town centre properties (Tom Burgess House, Arthur Wharton House, Elizabeth House, Portland House; Millford) to provide a revenue income or saving, funded by the Decarbonisation Recycle Fund.	the air source heat pump (ASHP) system and internal space standards on the ground floor. • Solar photo-voltaic panels (PV) – reduces carbon emissions by allowing the homes to self-generate energy and can thereby help reduce energy bills for occupiers. • Mechanical ventilation and heat recovery (MVHR) – improves the efficiency of the ASHP system by allowing air to be recirculated within the dwelling. MVHR can also improve internal air quality, reduce condensation, and help to manage over-heating. Additional airtightness works – reduce heat loss.		
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Increase	Large scale developments and improvements are expected to have significant effects on carbon emissions. Construction projects expected to increase emissions include:	The works detailed in the previous column will increase overall borough emissions.	Introduction of further SPDs (supplementary planning documents) relevant to climate change – SPDs can elaborate on Local Plan policies, giving developers additional technical guidance, speeding up applications and resulting in better	Embodied carbon emissions must be estimated for all new corporate Council building projects from 1st April 2026. The Council may consider setting targets for embodied carbon in its corporate buildings in the future.

		• Our Places Fund programmes in Wath and Dinnington. • The delivery of our ambitious Council Homes Programme has seen new build projects completed in Warden Street in Canklow, Princess Street and Albert Road, the former Ship Inn Site in Swinton, Maltby, Wath, and on the former Albert Club in West Melton. Homes being built from Quarter 1 2026/27. • Completing the building work for Castle View Day Service, and at Eric Manns. • The submission of a bid to the Cruyff Foundation in support of a new multi-use games area in the borough will require construction and land redevelopment if successful.		quality development for the community and environment. A full business case has been developed for the procurement and delivery of a Local Area Energy Plan for Rotherham, including a review of potential external funding opportunities. Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.	The council does not currently monitor or report on construction emissions for other types of building projects.

		• The improvement of 4 play areas as part of the Children's Playground Programme. • Completion of the Royal Institute of British Architects Stage 1 development of plans for the next phase of major housing in the town centre and submitting the 'Regeneration Plan' in response to the Government's new grant fund 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' (formally known as Long Term Plan for Towns). • Completion of the landscaping works to the pocket park at Snail Yard. • The Whiston Brook, Eel Mires Dyke an Kilnhurst, and Catcliffe Flood Alleviation Schemes. • The redevelopment works at Rother Valley Country Park.			

		• The investment of £1.66 million into footway improvements across the borough to deliver 14.47km of footway repairs. • The demolition work of Wath library to make way for new facilities.			
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Unknown	710 trees were planted across the borough by the end of the 2025/26 financial year.	Improvements in the approach to weed control and removal, as well as sustainable management of verges and greenspaces to encourage biodiversity and increase wildflower areas, with potential (but likely negligible) impact on carbon capture.	Carbon Impact Assessments required for all cabinet reports.	The Council currently has little data related to carbon sequestered via trees, limiting our understanding of the planting required to offset emissions.

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

A programme of six priority flood alleviation schemes has seen a continuous, 1.6km line of defence completed on the north and west banks of the river Don, where it flows through the town centre: a flood wall, canal barrier and public realm improvements at Forge Island comprise a 0.4km section of these defences. There have been some delays to the flood alleviation schemes in Catcliffe, Eel Mires Dyke, Kilnhurst and Whiston Brook.

Delivery of the Year Ahead Delivery Plan should help build residents' broader resilience, including residents' capacity to deal with climate change.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:
The 'One Council that listens and learns' outcome has a focus on reducing harmful levels of carbon emissions to limit the impacts on the climate and the environment. Actions within this outcome encompass plans for the reduction of emissions. The 'places are thriving, safe and clean' outcome also includes actions focussed on flood alleviation projects and flood resilience measures for communities in the worst-affected areas of the borough. Given that this is a progress report, and implies no direct recommendations or decisions, there are no relevant direct emission impacts to consider. Where progress on certain actions has implied a specific definable impact on emissions, this has been included indicatively and an overall likely impact provided. The majority of larger schemes will have had separate climate impact assessments undertaken as part of their approval process.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Fiona Boden Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence Policy, Performance and Intelligence, Policy, Strategy and Engagement Choose an item.
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Directorate Year Ahead Delivery Plan trackers and Performance Data for Quarters 3 and 4 2025/26.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA664 Katie Rockett Climate Change Officer

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report with Exempt Appendices
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title
Town Centre Strategic Sites

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)
Nicola Glynne-Jones, Project Manager, Regeneration
Nicola.glynne-jones@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected.
Boston Castle

Report Summary

This report presents the ambitious and transformative regeneration proposals for 5 Strategic Sites in Rotherham town centre with a high-quality housing and lifestyle offer that will set the tone for the future development of the town centre. The creation of additional residential communities will build on the Council's ongoing regeneration ambitions for the town centre, which date back to the 2017 masterplan and the identification of the intent to deliver new housing along the river front. These proposals signal the next phase of development following completion of Forge Island, the new Markets and Library and a range of public realm improvements. The 5 sites are: -

- Westgate Car Park
- Sites on Sheffield Road (SIG and Bedell land)
- The Statutes Car Park
- Snail Yard, High Street
- 3-7 Corporation Street

The report outlines the Council's ambitions for the sites, the phased approach to redevelopment, and the outcomes of the work to date, including feasibility work to produce initial outline concepts and Strategic Regeneration Plans (SRPs) which are contained within Appendix 1.

It concludes by setting out the next steps required to progress through Stage 2 of the process to produce detailed, deliverable, costed development plans, with financial models, over the next year that will clearly illustrate how the sites can be delivered in the final stage, and recommends an allocation of £2.42m from the Council's Local Regeneration Fund to facilitate this.

No decision is required at this stage on the ultimate development plans for the sites, their funding, financial models or land ownership arrangements, however emerging thinking is referenced. A Cabinet report will be presented in 2027 which details the final proposals.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the completion of Stage 1 of the Council's phased approach to the redevelopment of the 5 Strategic Sites.

2. Approves the allocation of £2.42m from the Council's unallocated Local Regeneration Fund to facilitate the completion of Stage 2 of the redevelopment of the sites, the detail of which is described in section 2.1.

3. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration & Environment, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs & Local Economy and S151 Officer to negotiate contract terms with Capital and Centric and enter into contract to complete all elements of Stage 2 development work for the 5 strategic sites.

4. Notes the presentation of a further report to Cabinet in Summer 2027 summarising the outcome of the stage 2 work and setting out final recommendations for a detailed delivery strategy that will form stage 3.

5. Approve necessary consultation and engagement activity with all stakeholders to inform and support the progression to the next stages of development.

List of Appendices Included
Appendix 1 – Exempt - Summary of Strategic Regeneration Plans
Appendix 2 - Exempt – Financial Breakdown
Appendix 3 – Equalities impact assessment
Appendix 4 - Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers
Delegated Officer Decision 29th August 2024 – Feasibility Fund Allocation: Strategic Sites

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
None

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
Yes or No? If yes, use text below.

An exemption is sought for Appendix 1 and 2 in relation to Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 is requested, as this report contains sensitive commercial information of letting a tender.

It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption would outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information, as the Councils commercial interests could be prejudiced by disclosure of this commercial information.

Town Centre Strategic Sites

1. Background

1.1 Rotherham Council's long-term objective, dating back to the 2017 masterplan for the town centre is to achieve the continued diversification of its offer through attracting new uses, services, residential and leisure opportunities and moving away from the traditional retail market. Works which have already been delivered, or are in delivery, to meet this objective, include Forge Island leisure destination, Town Centre Public Realm improvements, Riverside Gardens, Council led housing development at Westgate, the Markets and Library redevelopment and the town centre Health Hub.

1.2 The proposals for the Town Centre Strategic Sites will continue to build on this, providing a unique opportunity to elevate the town centre living and quality offer to a level not previously available in Rotherham. With the strategic intent and sites first identified within the Town Centre Masterplan in 2017 and later in the 2021 Town Investment Plan this transformational proposal will provide a high-quality housing solution, commercial property and premium lifestyle offer that will attract a new demographic to the town creating a suite of catalyst projects to influence and drive change through increased discretionary spending in the town centre.

1.3 Bringing forward proposals for the 5 sites together will create a significant, combined impact compared to a piecemeal proposal if the sites were left to the market. This will result in the continued positive message of the town centre as a destination for residents of the Borough and all other surrounding areas, as reputation and perception of Rotherham positively improves as a direct consequence of this investment opportunity

1.4 A cluster approach is considered necessary to create sufficient quantum of development potential to tackle viability and to create a greater sense of place in the town centre. Significant progress has already been made by the Council in acquiring, demolishing, clearing underused and derelict sites and preparing infrastructure ready for development.

1.5 The introduction of additional town centre residential accommodation is a key component in supporting the continued diversification and long-term vitality of the town centre. Increasing housing supply is also a fundamental element of the Council's Housing Strategy which references Housing Growth as a borough wide priority. This is further supported by the provisions within the Rotherham Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) emphasising the need and aspiration for Town Centre living compliance with the Council's Affordable Housing policy. Increasing the resident population within the centre will help to generate sustained footfall and local expenditure, which are widely recognised as key factors in supporting the viability of high streets and town centres. The UK has experienced a structural shift in retail, with online sales rising from under 5% in 2006 to around 25% by 2023, contributing to high street decline and reinforcing the need for alternative activity, including residential uses.

1.6 A greater level of town centre living will also contribute to activity beyond traditional trading hours, helping to support the evening economy and a broader mix of uses,

including leisure, food and beverage, and community services. This in turn supports a more resilient and vibrant town centre, reducing reliance on traditional retail and aligning with national trends which identify housing-led regeneration as a key driver in the revitalisation of town centres.

1.7 The vision for these strategically positioned sites is for the creation of communities that re-invigorate the town centre and provide long term sustainability through increased occupation and usage. This will be achieved through increasing housing supply, improvements to public realm and leisure and the creation of commercial opportunities.

1.8 The 5 Strategic Sites identified for development are:

1. Westgate Car Park (Westgate Riverside Residential Quarter)
2. Sites on Sheffield Road (SIG and Bedell land)
3. The Statutes Car Park
4. Snail Yard, High Street
5. 3-7 Corporation Street

Sites 1, 2, 4 and 5 were purchased from the private sector using Government grant and site 3 came into the Council's ownership following demolition of the Magistrates Court. In the interim the sites have been generating revenue income for the Council of around £150k p/a.

1.9 In bringing these sites forward for development, the Council aims to:

- Continue to expand the new community in the town centre through high quality, statement housing, integrated services and activities;
- Create a long-term positive legacy for the town centre, long-term established communities and a sense of place through a jigsaw of strategic sites.
- Work at pace to provide a positive future for complex sites.
- Secure private sector investment, working with credible partners who share the Council's vision and passion.
- Tackle viability in a low value market with public sector support.
- Attract partners who will create a lasting positive legacy in the town centre and invest long term in the future of the town, avoiding private sector partners who see short term gains and strip investment out of the town centre. The developments will complement the emerging leisure and events offer in the town centre and proposals will need to demonstrate how they will add to this.
- Provide ongoing guardianship of sites in the long term, leveraging a strong positive brand to attract interest and demand in town centre living, and creating a range of ancillary leisure uses that support activities and events that engender positive community cohesion.
- Create demonstrable social value for both the new communities and the wider Rotherham community.
- Contribute towards a renewed public perception of Rotherham as a place to live, visit and enjoy.
- Reduce pressures for future green belt housing site allocations.

1.10 To achieve the ambitions for the sites, and to establish viability and buildability from the outset, the Council undertook a procurement process to appoint an experienced private sector Developer Partner who shared the Council's objectives. This approach sees the development of the sites over three stages with Cabinet decisions in between. The first stage involves the creation of Strategic Regeneration Plans (SRPs) for each site, which were to provide information to show:

- Market appraisal and viability appraisal.
- Desktop site investigations.
- Stage 1 design concepts.
- Demonstration of how social value will be achieved in the development of each site, bringing additional benefit to Rotherham and its communities.
- Provision of innovative ideas for community and stakeholder influence and engagement.
- Programme and options for development and delivery, including funding strategies.
- Proposals to structure development risk and reward.

1.11 Upon completion of the tender process, the Council appointed Capital & Centric (Rust) Limited ("Capital & Centric") as the Developer Partner. Stage 1 has now completed and a summary of the outcome of the Stage 1 SRPs is provided, along with a description and further information on the next proposed stages, in Sections 2.2 – 2.4 below.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Stage 1: Summary of the outcome of the Strategic Regeneration Plans

The SRPs should be regarded as initial conceptual proposals for the development of the sites, covering both design and funding approaches. These proposals will be further developed and refined throughout Stage 2, with the resulting detail brought back to Cabinet for consideration.

2.1.1 The Statutes, Sites on Sheffield Road and Westgate Riverside Residential Quarter

2.1.2 *Design Concepts*

These sites have been clustered together to create a coherent design narrative along the River Don. In total the schemes are estimated to deliver 225 new homes including both apartments and houses. At this stage of the feasibility work, the option proposed by Capital and Centric on which the current funding strategy is based is for the new homes to be developed for private rent with Capital & Centric acting as landlord. Tenures will be explored in further detail as part of Stage 2 and will be subject to the Planning process. The outcome of this will be reported back to Cabinet in Summer 2027.

2.1.3 *Programme*

Subject to further Cabinet approval and the progression to Stage 3 contracts, as referred to above, the sites will see development starting in early 2028.

2.1.4 *Funding Strategy, Viability & Development Options & Structure*
Capital & Centric are exploring a proposal to fund the development of these sites through their Impact & Places Partnership, which is a joint venture between Swiss Life Asset Managers, Homes England and Capital & Centric. It should be noted that while some viability modelling has taken place and that this indicates the development can be fully funded through this partnership, there remains a risk that the schemes will require additional capital funding outside of the partnership. This could, for example, be influenced by any delays in getting to site, global influences on the construction market, the Council's requirements for a land receipt and changes in the proposed tenure models. This will be explored in detail at Stage 2, as referenced below. If during this process it is determined that additional funding is required, it may be necessary for the Council to support Capital & Centric in sourcing additional funds.

2.1.5 Long term ownership and management of the sites will be negotiated as part of the Stage 2 process towards a Development Agreement. A strength of the Capital and Centric model is to maintain long term involvement in the stewardship of the sites they develop which ensures the maintenance of quality and development of a community. This approach will require disposal of the land to Capital & Centric. Discussions around whether the sites would be disposed of at nil value or generate a capital receipt will take place through Stage 2, however it should be noted that any capital receipt will impact on the viability of the schemes. Options around future development models, and a clear proposal, will be brought for Cabinet's consideration at the completion of Stage 2.

2.1.6 **3-7 Corporation Street & Snail Yard**

2.1.7 *Design Concepts*
These sites are considered best suited to a development of mixed uses. For Snail Yard, the concept proposes office, retail and 4 residential units around a courtyard space. Concepts for 3-7 Corporation Street consists of ground floor commercial space with 10 duplex residential properties above.

2.1.8 *Programme*
Subject to further Cabinet approval and the progression to Stage 3, as referred to above, the sites will see development starting in early 2028.

2.1.9 *Funding Strategy, Viability & Development Options & Structure*
It is considered that these sites would not attract funding through the Impact & Places Partnership, nor are they considered viable without some form of public sector funding. Instead, the Council will work with Capital & Centric throughout Stage 2 to consider other forms of funding such as National Housing Development Fund, Gainshare and City Densification Fund amongst others. Given the more challenging viability on these two sites, there is an increased risk that gap funding cannot be secured to bring these sites forward. Detailed work will take place as part of Stage 2 to determine site proposals and financial appraisals to be able to present to Cabinet next year to provide a firm basis for decision making.

2.1.10 Social Value

Capital & Centric committed to providing a £2,000 contribution within the contractual obligations of the contract and this has been agreed. The contribution will be allocated based on the recommendations of Voluntary Action Rotherham and approved by the Council's Social Value team. The developer will be donating to one of Rotherham's 8 Social Prescribing Hubs who support community work across the Borough. The Social Prescribing Hubs pilot project is a collaboration between the RTP partners to ensure donations are meaningful and reflect the needs of local residents. These activities will contribute towards the delivery of the Council's targeted Social Value (TOMs) outcomes

2.1.11 During Stage 2 the Council will undertake negotiations with Capital & Centric to form their social value commitments for Stage 2 and once the scheme reaches delivery. So, while the detail for these stages will be provided at a future Cabinet meeting, it should be noted that Social Value is integral to Capital & Centric's operational model and ethos. As an organisation Capital & Centric are committed to providing local jobs through the construction period as well as permanent employment, enterprise growth and supply chain opportunities through the long term development.

2.1.12 Stakeholder Engagement

The SRPs set out the future approach to consultation and community engagement. A structured consultation programme will engage the Council, local residents, council business tenants, other local businesses, education providers and community organisations throughout the project lifecycle. Activities will include public events, workshops, targeted meetings, local business engagement sessions and regular communications, delivered in close collaboration with the Council's communications team to ensure inclusive and effective engagement. Feedback will inform design and delivery, ensuring the scheme responds to local priorities, supports existing communities and strengthens opportunities for local businesses and town centre vitality.

2.2 **Stage 2**

2.2.1 The structure and scope of the tender allowed the partnership between the Council and the Developer to evolve through two Gateways, each of which are subject to Cabinet approval and the subsequent award of relevant contractual agreements. This report seeks endorsement to move from Stage 1, which is completed, onto Stage 2. Stage 2 culminates in the production of Full Business Cases (FBC) for each of the Strategic Sites. Specifically, this includes as a minimum:

- Intrusive site investigations in preparation for remediation of vacant sites
- Detailed viability appraisals and funding strategies
- RIBA Stage 3 design concepts
- Securing Planning Permissions
- Raising of the required development finances
- Detailed cost plans
- Presented as a HM Treasury Compliant 5 Case Full Business Case

2.2.2 Throughout this period the Council will enter into negotiations to agree Development Agreements (or development agreement, if appropriate) for the

delivery of the schemes to subsequently be submitted for approval. While this report flags some of the likely outputs of Stage 2 it should be noted that it is only through the Stage 2 process that that risks will be fully assured, with practical mitigation measures built into the proposed approach. Once completed, the FBCs, in summary form, will be presented to Cabinet in Summer 2027 for consideration.

2.2.3 Progression to Stage 2 will require the Council to meet the pre-development costs of £2.42m. It is proposed that this is funded through unallocated Local Regeneration Grant. The Local Regeneration Grant is the name applied to the Central Government funding previously known as Pathfinder, the name for the collated pots of Town Deal, Future High Streets and Levelling Up funds. Use of this underspend to progress these schemes accords with the longstanding strategic intent to diversify the town centre through the development of these sites. It is also consistent with the Government's intention to enable local authorities to have flexibility over the use of these funds.

2.2.4 The £2.42m is in addition to the £600,000 already allocated to fund early consultation and stage 1 feasibility works.

2.2.5 Up to the conclusion of Stage 2 the financial risk to the Council is £3.02m, of grant funding and will represent the full costs incurred to achieve detailed development plans and planning approval for the 5 strategic sites. While there remains a risk that ultimately the Council may decide not to proceed past Stage 2 and into delivery this is considered a necessary risk in order to unlock these strategically important sites to achieve transformational change in the town centre and for the Council to retain control of the development activity and regeneration message. It is acknowledged that this stage only represents the comprehensive feasibility work and therefore there is a risk that the outcome will be that the sites are not feasible to be developed in this way, due to the funding gap identified as part of the scope of works.

2.2.6 The outcome of Stage 2 feasibility work will be reported to Cabinet in Summer 2027. Cabinet will be presented with options to proceed or not proceed at that point. These options will include full details of the funding and land commitment required to progress to Stage 3 in line with the findings of the stage 2 report along with all alternative options including options for funding and land disposals. The Council is not compelled under the terms of the procurement to progress to stage 3 and this option will also be presented. The initial indicative feasibility costs of the full development can be seen in Appendix 1.

2.3 **Key Risks associated with Stage 2**

2.3.1 At this stage of the feasibility development work, Capital and Centric are confident that they will be able to secure the gap funding required to develop the sites identified for housing. The position for the other 2 sites is, at this point in time, less clear and there is a risk that development cannot proceed because of viability gaps. The risks are tabled within section 13 of this report however, there are some key risks for consideration to highlight at this early stage.

Risk Description	Impact	Mitigation
Stage 2 s concludes that the schemes are not viable to deliver and the Council chooses to cease development through the current approach	Potential financial loss of the grant funding allocation to date and the sites remain undeveloped.	There is no direct mitigation for this loss, however the Council would still have the benefit of the feasibility works, planning approval and full business cases information to support any further considerations in adopting an alternative approach to delivery.
Gap funding over and above that supported by the Impact & Places Partnership is required for the housing sites.	Additional funding cannot be sourced and the schemes are rendered undeliverable or considerably delayed.	As Stage 2 progresses there will be regular assessments of the direction of travel in relation to the scheme costs and funding opportunities in conjunction with the Council's Finance team and funding partners
Capital and Centric can offer no viable funding model to support the gap funding required for the 2 mixed use sites	Additional funding cannot be sourced and the schemes are rendered undeliverable or considerably delayed.	CAs Stage 2 progresses there will be regular assessments of the direction of travel in relation to the scheme costs and funding opportunities in conjunction with the Council's Finance team and external funding partners
Development of the sites requires disposal of land at nil value	Loss of capital receipt to the Council	Land value will be assessed and fed into the viability assessments during Stage 2 and a recommendation made to Cabinet in Summer 2027. While the sites may generate a capital income it is likely any income generated will have a negative impact on the viability of the schemes.

2.3.2 In considering these risks it is important to understand the rewards that are possible to be gained for Rotherham Town Centre should the development of these 5 Strategic Sites be supported. In contrast, doing nothing would leave 5 prominent Town Centre sites undeveloped and unable to achieve their full potential to transform the town centre offer and potentially undermine the ability of other key regeneration projects to generate the greatest impact. Cabinet will have the opportunity to decide whether to proceed or not after the completion of the Stage 2 development work.

2.3.3 Stage 2 outputs will be reported to Cabinet in Summer 2027. Cabinet will be presented with options to proceed or not proceed at that point. These options will include full details of the funding and land commitment required to progress to Stage 3 and Development Agreement, along with all alternative options including options for funding and land disposals. The initial indicative feasibility costs of the full development can be seen in Appendix 1.

2.4 **Stage 3**

2.4.1 The third and final stage will see the signing of a Development Agreement (or development agreements, if appropriate) and implementation of the Full Business Cases including full details of the financial implications, land implications and delivery strategies and will only take place upon Cabinet approval, scheduled for Summer 2027. Subject to necessary approvals, work will then start on site in 2028.

2.4.2 Further commitments to Social Value will be secured from the Developer Partner before progressing onwards to Stage 2 and 3, these commitments will be in line with Council Social Value priorities, policies and TOMs framework.

The Council is not compelled under the terms of the procurement to progress to stage 3 and this option will be presented at Cabinet in Summer 2027.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 **Progress to Stage 2 with Capital & Centric as Development Partner:**

3.1.1 In developing the procurement strategy for the 5 Strategic Sites the Council determined that the procurement of a Developer Partner, as opposed to in house or consultancy developed proposals, was the most effective route to ensuring buildability from the outset given the complexity of the sites. The phased approach gives the Council greater control over the evolution of the schemes.

3.1.2 It enables the Council to ensure proposals are fully tested, costed, and aligned with the agreed vision for Rotherham. Advancing to Stage 2 at this time maintains the original plan and keeps momentum, maintains Council influence over the sites, and ensures decisions are based on detailed evidence rather than assumptions, giving the town centre the best chance of achieving high-quality, coordinated development in line with the Council's Placed Based Investment Strategy, Town Centre Masterplan and Town Investment plan. **This option is recommended.**

3.2 **Move to stage 2 on a Council led basis:**

3.2.1 An alternative option would be for the Council to progress Stage 2 without the Developer Partner. Instead, the Council would use the SRPs and assume a direct development role. This would require the Council to establish a multidisciplinary development capability, either through recruitment or the commissioning of external specialist advisers. It would also require the Council to identify and secure the necessary funding to progress the schemes, including development, enabling, delivery and construction costs, with associated borrowing, cash-flow and affordability implications. All delivery and market risk would sit with the Council, alongside the need for additional governance and management arrangements.

3.2.2 For these reasons, this option is not considered to offer the same level of efficiency, certainty and risk as progressing Stage 2 with the Development Partner. **This option is not recommended.**

3.3 **Delay progression to Stage 2:**

3.3.1 The Council may choose to halt progressing to Stage 2 until a future date. This would likely result in the loss of the Development Partner as they move to alternative projects. Funding is available through the Local Regeneration Fund and momentum is building around the town centre and Don Valley Corridor. Accordingly, halting progression to Stage 2 is not recommended to ensure this momentum continues. **This option is not recommended.**

3.4 **Land Disposal:**

3.4.1 The Council could choose to abandon the approach to the development of the sites, choosing instead to dispose of the 5 sites through sale of the land to private sector developers.

3.4.3 While this may provide a capital receipt it would also mean relinquishing control over the development of the sites. This loss could result in the sites being land banked or development of schemes that do not align with the Council's long-term vision for Rotherham town centre and may ultimately undermine efforts to deliver a coordinated and high-quality regeneration programme. It should also be noted that previous attempts to market the Corporation Street site and the development of The Statutes site have failed due to viability challenges. **This option is not recommended.**

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Prior to the completion of the 2017 masterplan the Council undertook consultation with communities and in particular young people on the future of the town centre. Feedback reflected the community's desire to feel proud of their town centre, for it to be more exciting, fun and safe.

4.2 In 2021 further consultation was undertaken for the production of the Town Investment Plan. Showing further support for the diversification of the town centre residents wanted to see more and better-quality residential uses, particularly along the river side. Additionally, residents commented on the number of abandoned

buildings which created a negative impression to visitors and residents, citing that investment should be made in demolition and refurbishment into diverse uses.

4.3 From May to July 2024 the Council undertook a significant consultation exercise focussed on the future of the town centre. Using the Place Standard Tool, a commonly used tool for assessing opinion of a place, over 552 responses were received with many comments received around the need to vary the offer in the town centre and make use of vacant sites and building. All future consultation will aim to build on what has already been collated. Above average scores were received for areas such as moving around, public transport, traffic and parking, suggesting that public perception of these areas is positive. Below average scores were received for areas such as housing and community, work and local economy, care and maintenance and feeling safe suggesting negative views of these areas. The redevelopment of the Strategic Sites will provide a positive impact on these areas of concern.

4.4 As the project progresses into Stage 2, subject to approval, a structured programme of consultation and stakeholder engagement will be undertaken to support the refinement of detailed design and master-planning in partnership with the appointed development partner. This will build on the early engagement undertaken at Stage 1 and follow the phased, iterative approach set out within the Strategic Regeneration Proposals (SRPs), ensuring that local intelligence and stakeholder insight are embedded throughout the development process.

4.5 Engagement will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Consultation and Engagement Framework along with involvement from the Council's Communications team and will comprise a coordinated programme of public-facing events, targeted stakeholder workshops, online consultation activity and direct engagement with affected tenants and statutory consultees. Consistent with the approach outlined in the SRPs, this will form part of an ongoing co-design process, enabling residents, businesses and key stakeholders to meaningfully influence the evolution of proposals, including design development, public realm, and wider placemaking priorities.

4.6 Feedback gathered through this process will directly inform the preparation of the Full Business Cases and the emerging delivery approach, ensuring proposals reflect local priorities and align with the Council's wider regeneration objectives. The outcomes of consultation will be reported back to Cabinet as part of the Summer 2027 Full Business Case submissions, including a summary of engagement activities undertaken and a clear explanation of how feedback has influenced the proposals for each Strategic Site.

4.7 The appointed development partner will be responsible for preparing and delivering a comprehensive Consultation and Engagement Plan, working closely with Council officers. This will reflect the principles set out within the SRPs, including early and continuous engagement, transparency in decision-making and inclusive methods of communication. All consultation activity will be undertaken in line with the Council's policies and guidance, and in liaison with the Corporate Communications team to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach, with all engagement appropriately promoted through the Council's approved channels.

4.8 Essential to the progression of Stage 2 is the engagement with the occupiers of two of the identified sites, alongside occupiers of adjacent public house, and users of the remaining sites. While Stage 2 itself does not require any long term works to the sites, some intrusive site investigations will be required. This work will be delivered in a timely, coordinated, sensitive and professional manner, with regular communication maintained throughout, ensuring tenants feel supported, listened to and fully aware of works. This approach will help to sustain positive relationships, minimise uncertainty and disruption, and ensure that the sites can be prepared appropriately in line with future development requirements, subject to further approvals.

4.9 The redevelopment of the sites may require the relocation of existing occupiers and termination of leases. All tenants have been contacted by the Council's Regeneration team and engagement continues to ensure full awareness of the proposals and potential implications for their future trading.

4.10 Dialogue will continue as the proposals progress, with tenants kept up to date and informed of the process, any potential future implications and the timescales involved. The Council's Property Services Team will lead on future engagement and negotiations with tenants in occupation in respect of any potential future tenancies. This will include ongoing discussions regarding potential relocation options, lease variations or, where necessary, the orderly termination of tenancies to enable redevelopment.

4.11 Work has commenced with the Council's RiDO Business Support team regarding potential request for business relocation assistance. The team has confirmed its willingness to support, where required, to ensure a positive interaction and experience for affected tenants should relocation opportunities be pursued.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The Rotherham Strategic Development Sites programme provided by the Developer Partner sets out a comprehensive programme for the regeneration of the 5 sites. The programme runs from Cabinet approval in July 2026 to May 2027 and provides a detailed framework for planning, funding, procurement, construction and occupation.

5.2 The below table provides an indicative timeline of the expected delivery of the Stage 2 key milestones:

Indicative Timing	Milestone	Description
July 2026 – December 2026	Completion of RIBA Stage 2 Design	Completion of developed design proposals
November 2026 – December 2026	Stage 2 Cost Plan Approved	Preparation and agreement of an updated cost plan reflecting the developed design and identified risks
November 2026 – January 2027	Full Business Case(s) Prepared	Development of Full Business Case(s) to demonstrate

		affordability, viability and value for money
December 2026 – February 2027	Pre-Application Planning Engagement	Formal pre-application engagement with the Local Planning Authority to de-risk the planning process
February 2027	Planning Submission	Submit full planning application followed by finalisation of Full Business Cases
July 2027	Gateway 2 Approval	Cabinet approval sought for the Stage 2 developed design, cost plan and Full Business Case(s), and authority sought to proceed to Stage 3

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 This report proposes moving to Stage 2 of the Strategic Sites project which will provide full business cases with planning permission to develop the sites and a funding strategy for the work on each site. The estimated cost of this stage, based on information provided to the Council, is £2.42m and further details are provided in appendix 2. This will be subject to negotiation with the Council's development partner to enter into a Stage 2 contract. The cost is estimated as no contractual agreement has been reached with the developer. The Council will be taking full risk on this expenditure as there is no guarantee that this spend will lead to the development of the sites, which is Stage 3 of the contract.

6.2 It is proposed to fund the cost of Stage 2 utilising Local Regeneration Grant (LRG), subject to any remaining funding from Stage 1 being rolled forward, as detailed in appendix 2. LRG is a mix of the Towns Fund, High Streets Fund and Levelling Up Funds provided by the Ministry for Homes, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) that have been combined to simplify the governance and monitoring arrangements. The fund has spare capacity, as projects that were funded by the LRG have been delivered with a small saving or have sourced additional grant funding, allowing an element of the LRG to be released. The Council has control over how this fund is allocated, though it does need to report outputs and outcomes delivered back to MHCLG. This grant is for capital expenditure, and should this project not proceed to Stage 3, Stage 2 costs will have to be charged to revenue and alternative funding will need to be identified.

6.3 The funding model for the scheme hasn't been seen so it is not known what the cost to the Council will be for the Stage 3 works. As mentioned earlier in the report, it is thought at this stage that three of the sites will be self-funded and not require Council contribution. However, this is before full business cases are completed and planning permission secured which may change the assumed model, meaning Council contributions could be required. The other two sites will require Council capital to complete works. It is also not known what exposure to risk the Council will bear for Stage 3, if, for example, costs increase significantly, the developer is

unable to complete the works or the required levels of sale or rental of property doesn't transpire once built.

6.4 The model for Stage 3 is also to be determined. As well as the funding considerations above, an agreement needs to be reached as to how the land will be developed on, such as through land sale or disposal. This will affect any contribution the Council may need to make.

6.5 At present, two of the sites generate parking income of approximately £100k per year and one the sites rental income of £50k per year. This income will be lost because of this development and must be factored into the Medium Term Financial Position to ensure it is reflected in the Council's budgets.

6.6 The procurement activity undertaken to appoint Capital and Centric was compliant with relevant procurement legislation (namely the Public Contracts Regulations 2015) as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules. The scope of the procurement undertaken covered the works for Stage 2 subject to this approval. The full proposed details of the contractual arrangement to be entered into will be covered in the Stage 2 tender evaluation report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The recommendations included in this Report are in accordance with the previous recommendations on this matter and in line with the Council's Constitution.

7.2 Legal Services has been involved in the lead up to this Report in reviewing contractual documentation, procurement processes and preparing title reports in respect of the properties and will continue to be engaged with the process.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8.2 Workforce capacity will be monitored through existing management and programme governance arrangements as the programme progresses.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults however, the Council's Placed Based Investment strategy, Town Centre Masterplan and Town Investment plan all makes clear the important role Town Centre Redevelopment will play in creating a town centre that is attractive to all users including young people "by creating a more vibrant, inclusive town centre that works for younger people".

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The Equalities Impact Screening Assessment is attached at Appendix 3.

10.2 The initial Equality Screening has been undertaken and has identified no likely adverse impacts at Stage 2, as activities are limited to early technical, design and enabling work. Any potential impacts on protected groups will be assessed in full through a detailed Equality Impact Assessment at later stages, should any of the identified Strategic Sites progress to physical development.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 The Climate Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 4.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no direct implications from this decision on the delivery of services by partners by delivering Stage 2 works. The delivery of the Strategic Sites scheme will be an important catalyst in the town centre to see the continued diversification of its offer. All partners will be included within the consultation programme.

12.2 The Council's approach to the development of the Strategic Sites aims to establish a long-term partnership with a developer which will deliver benefits to the town for generations to come.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1

Risk Category	Risk Description	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures
Procurement Risk	Preferred developer may choose not to proceed to Stage 3	Delay to programme and potential need to re-procure	Maintain regular engagement with the developer; ensure commercial terms remain viable and transparent; retain flexibility within the procurement strategy for Stage 3 to enable alternative delivery options if required Appoint an Employer's Agent to support the Council through robust challenge and analysis.
Delivery Risk	Site viability affected by findings from ground investigations	Increased costs, redesign requirements or sites becoming undeliverable	Early and comprehensive site investigations; allowance for contingency within cost plans; review

			scope and phasing options to maintain deliverability
	Issues achieving vacant possession of land	Delays to programme causing potential cost increases	All land is in Council ownership with 2 sites subject to a lease. Early engagement with leaseholders and careful management by the Council's Estates Team will ensure vacant possession is timely.
Financial Risk	Cost viability challenges and/or failure to secure gap funding	Funding gap and inability to progress development – this risk being greater for Corporation Street & Snail Yard	Ongoing cost monitoring and value engineering; alignment of programme and business case with funding criteria Early appointment of an Employer's Agent to act on behalf of the Council to ensure robust scrutiny and challenge of every stage of the development appraisal and viability assessments
	Developer does not proceed with development proposals post stage 2	The £2.42m investment by the Council has not achieved a deliverable scheme with the selected partner as intended	The £2.42m investment will provide a plan for 5 schemes with a Full Business Case for each along with planning approved designs. The Council would then be able to utilise these FBC's

			and approved plans to formulate new delivery plans and finance strategies with programme delay being the only consequence.
Reputational Risk	Public consultation raises expectations that proposals may not be realised	Loss of trust from stakeholders and local communities	Clear and transparent communication; manage expectations by emphasising the early-stage nature of proposals; ensure consultation messaging is proportionate and accurate
Programme Risk	Delays arising from developer design progression or internal governance approvals	Slippage against agreed programme and funding timescales	Clear programme governance; regular progress monitoring; early scheduling of internal approvals and decision points; escalation of delays where required. Scrutiny by the Council's appointed professional team. Programme progression will be a standard item within regular meetings to ensure early intervention should potential issues be identified.

13.2 These risks are being and will continue to be mitigated through ongoing engagement with the developer and funders, early and comprehensive site investigations, robust cost monitoring and value engineering, clear and proportionate communication with stakeholders, and strengthened programme governance and monitoring arrangements.

13.3 The procurement process ensured robust scrutiny of the bidders experience and knowledge ensuring that the most suitable developer was selected. The developer has significant demonstrable experience of delivering similar schemes within town centres of similar character and could demonstrate a track record that gave comfort on their ability to overcome the challenges of the Council's Strategic Sites.

14. Accountable Officers

Lorna Vertigan, Head of Regeneration

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	19/06/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	18/06/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	18/06/26

Report Author:
Nicola Glynne-Jones, Project Manager, Regeneration
Nicola.glynne-jones@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Appendix 3

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Rotherham Town Centre Strategic Sites Development – Stage 2	
Directorate: Planning, Regeneration and Transportation	**Service area: RiDO**
Lead person: Nicola Glynne-Jones	**Contact number: 01709254443**
Is this a:	
☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☒ **Other**	
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
This screening assesses the potential impacts arising from the Stage 2 activities associated with progressing the Strategic Sites Programme. At this stage, the work is focused on enabling the future development of identified strategic sites rather than undertaking any physical construction. Activities include: • Undertaking intrusive site investigations to inform ground conditions and requirements for future remediation of vacant or under-utilised sites. • Completing detailed viability appraisals and identifying suitable funding strategies to support future development.

- Producing RIBA Stage 3 design concepts, refining development proposals to a level suitable for planning submission.

- Securing the necessary planning permissions for proposed development.

The purpose of the screening is to identify whether these enabling and investigative activities have any equality, environmental, or community impacts at this stage, and to ensure that any potential risks are understood and mitigated ahead of future development phases.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community?		x
Could the proposal affect service users?		x
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics?		x
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?		x
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		x
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices?		x

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

An in-depth equality impact assessment Part B will be carried out if and when any sites are taken forward as part of the strategic sites works.

At this stage, a detailed equality analysis is not required because the proposal relates only to early-stage technical and enabling activities, such as intrusive site investigations, viability assessments, design development, planning submissions, and securing

development finance, which do not alter services, affect service users, change access to facilities, or impact individuals or groups with protected characteristics. These activities are largely desk-based or highly controlled on-site surveys that have no meaningful implications for accessibility, service delivery, public engagement, procurement arrangements, or workforce. Any potential impacts on communities, protected groups, or service provision will arise only at later phases, when physical works, site changes, or development proposals are implemented. At that point, a full and detailed EIA will be completed to assess and mitigate impacts appropriately. Therefore, undertaking an in-depth assessment now would be premature, speculative, and disproportionate to the minimal level of impact at Stage 2.

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6.**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4.**

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.**

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

N/A

- **Key findings**

N/A

- **Actions**

N/A

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	N/A
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	N/A

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Simon Moss	Service Director Regeneration and Environment	05/06/2026

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	10/03/2026
Report title and date	Rotherham Town Centre Strategic Sites Development – Stage 2
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Feasibility Fund Allocation: Strategic Sites
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	10/03/2026

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from transport?	Increase	There is a small increase in emissions from transport of council staff and contractor vehicles. This will occur when contractors are carrying out intrusive site investigations on site tours and as a result of any in person consultation activities.	There will be no impact to the Borough as a whole.	Staff will car share to reduce the amount of vehicles used. Ensure no unnecessary investigations are carried out by providing all relevant data the council already holds on the sites.	Ensure that site investigations are taking place collectively to reduce the number of visits.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Increase	There may be a small increase in emissions as a result of waste due to consultation materials at the end of life.	N/A	To consider where materials are required for equality purposes and minimise use where not.	Quantities are expected to be small and cannot be effectively measured.
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

This CIA specifically addresses the works to carry out stage 2 of the identified Strategic Sites locations, which will include intrusive site investigations, therefore there will be very low impact on emissions. Prior to the delivery of each specific project within the Strategic Sites portfolio, a Carbon Impact Assessment will be completed to assess the emissions and impact. This will allow the best opportunity to consider and implement reduced emissions.

These activities do not directly result in physical development but set the groundwork for future construction and regeneration.

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

Extreme weather event mitigation/ CC resilience.

The site investigation works will not affect the Councils' resilience to climate change, however through the delivery of the scheme, it will support climate change adaptations and mitigate against flood risk.

In terms of mitigating the risks from extreme heat events, the Strategic Sites Project delivery will endeavour to include increased green space through mixed use development including the planting of trees and biodiverse rain scaping: both these nature-based solutions will mitigate the 'urban heat island effect'. This is by providing shade and limiting the amount of heat retaining hard standing such as concrete and tarmac.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

Stage 2 activities are expected to generate only minor, short-term community impacts, including temporary noise and dust that may affect individuals with health conditions, localised disruption to footpaths or public spaces, reduced accessibility for some users, and potential concerns around safety during intrusive investigations. There is also a risk of raising community expectations during a largely preparatory phase, and of local concern if works are not clearly communicated.

To mitigate these impacts, a comprehensive communication and engagement approach will be implemented. This includes early and transparent information about the purpose, timing, and nature of the works; providing clear contact points for queries, and issuing regular

updates to residents, businesses, and members. Multiple communication channels will be used, such as social media, letters, in-person drop-ins, to ensure broad and inclusive engagement. Feedback gathered will inform RIBA Stage 3 designs to reflect local priorities.

Overall, while some short-term disruption is anticipated, these measures will minimise inconvenience and help maintain community trust. Stage 2 is expected to deliver a positive long-term community impact by enabling further regeneration in later phases when the project is in delivery stage.

An expected impact during the delivery of the works will be from contractors who will be encouraged to recycle waste where possible, contractors will also be encouraged to utilise materials to reduce the amount of waste. Emissions are to be expected across the Borough from contractors delivering materials to site. Contractors will be encouraged to combine materials on the same delivery to reduce the number of deliveries made.

Embodied Carbon and Construction Impact:
The construction phases of the Strategic Sites portfolio will include mixed use development within Rotherham Town Centre. The project will involve significant embodied carbon. Each project that comes out of the Strategic Sites developments will include its own detailed Carbon Impact Assessment.

Long-term Benefits: The Strategic Sites Initiative is intent on providing a regeneration boost to the town centre. The project intends to deliver mixed use housing developments across 5 sites in the Town Centre.

The vision for these strategic sites is for the creation of communities that re-invigorate the town centre, providing long term sustainability through increased occupation and usage. The housing-led development is expected to mitigate its environmental impact by providing modern, energy-efficient residential accommodation and supporting a reduction in carbon emissions. New homes will be built to contemporary energy-performance standards, resulting in lower operational energy use, reduced household emissions and improved living conditions compared with the existing older housing stock. The development's mixed-use nature will place homes alongside services, employment space and public transport connections, helping to reduce reliance on private car travel.

This is further strengthened by enhanced active-travel links, including improved connections to the canal and riverside walk within the town centre, creating safe and attractive walking and cycling routes. Locating a mixed-use development next to rail, tram and bus services supports long-term carbon reduction by shifting trips away from private cars; public transport typically produces around 70–80% lower emissions per passenger kilometre than car travel, and concentrating homes and jobs in a walkable, transit-rich area further reduces transport-related emissions over the development's lifetime.

As a brownfield regeneration project, the scheme brings underused land back into productive use while enabling a more sustainable pattern of movement and energy consumption. The feasibility works will allow these carbon benefits to be fully assessed, quantified and embedded in the emerging design.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Nicola Glynne-Jones Project Manager Regeneration Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	N/A
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form, please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	Not applicable at this stage of the project.
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 613 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title
Draft Street Trading Policy

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)
Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager
01709 254955 or alan.pogorzelec@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
The effective regulation of street trading is central to the continued regeneration and economic vibrancy of the Borough. This report proposes a regulatory approach that would see the control of street trading achieved through the use of consents issued by the Council in accordance with a Street Trading Policy.

In order to introduce the framework, the Council must first adopt Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. Cabinet is asked to authorise officers to commence a period of consultation in relation to the adoption of Schedule 4 and approve a draft Street Trading Policy which will be consulted on at the same time. A further report will be presented to Cabinet later in the year outlining the outcome of the consultation and making a final recommendation with regard to the adoption of Schedule 4 and the introduction of a Borough-wide Street Trading Policy.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approve consultation to determine whether the Council should adopt Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

2. Approve consultation on the draft Street Trading Policy, as outlined in the report.

3. Note that, following consultation, a future report will be presented to Cabinet in late 2026, outlining the final recommendations with regard to the adoption of Schedule 4 and the introduction of a Borough-wide Street Trading Policy.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Draft Street Trading Policy
Appendix 2 Equalities Assessment
Appendix 3 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers
None.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
None.

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Draft Street Trading Policy

1. Background

1.1 Uncontrolled street trading can adversely affect local communities and undermine the economic stability of an area and the businesses that operate within it.

1.2 The current approach to regulating street trading within Rotherham is inconsistent. Street Trading is currently being utilised by a small number of traders that operate at locations within Rotherham using permissions provided many years ago, or through the misuse of parking bays and car parks.

1.3 Street traders are currently able to operate with minimal regulation and without appropriate consideration of the consequences of their activities on other local businesses (particularly those that trade from retail premises). In addition, the absence of a clear framework means that the way that street traders operate currently is not transparent, equitable or fair. In addition, the introduction of a street trading framework will allow well managed traders to develop and flourish, further supporting business growth and employment opportunities.

1.4 In order to effectively regulate street trading, the Council must first adopt Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The adoption of this legislation, together with the introduction of a clear Street Trading Policy, will provide the Council with the framework to ensure that street trading is controlled, fair, appropriate and contributes to business growth throughout the Borough.

1.5 Cabinet are asked to consider the adoption of the relevant legislation and review the draft Policy. Cabinet are also asked to authorise officers to commence a period of consultation on both aspects as outlined in section 4 of this report.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The control of street trading in Rotherham is currently achieved through a combination of powers provided by Highways and Planning legislation. The control of street trading is not the primary purpose of this legislation, and so it is largely ineffective.

2.2 Although there is limited regulation of street traders through food hygiene and trading standards legislation, in general the traders that operate currently are not bound by any requirements regarding the safety and suitability of the unit that they trade from, the quality of the products that they supply or the hours of operation (and the consequential impact that this may have on the local area).

2.3 The ineffectiveness of the current approach has led to a small number of traders establishing themselves as a semi-permanent presence within the Borough or during particular events (events in Rotherham Town Centre or matches at the New York Stadium for example). In addition, the lack of

transparency about how the current traders operate has created a situation whereby new businesses that seek to trade on the Borough's streets are unable to do so, resulting in missed opportunities for traders to enhance the offer to residents during major events and to support wider business growth.

2.4 The Council recognises the positive impact that well managed street trading can have on the local area, and the wider Borough. Furthermore, it is considered likely that some smaller or niche traders may utilise street trading as a way of developing their business and growing their customer base. This may lead to the business establishing itself as a more successful, more permanent presence in Rotherham.

2.5 In order to address the issues identified above, and to assist with new business development within the Borough, the Council believes that it is necessary and important to introduce a new framework that will promote the benefits of street trading, whilst at the same time protecting local people and neighbourhoods from the negative effects of the current approach.

2.6 The Council has the option of utilising the provisions within Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (referred to hereafter as "Schedule 4"), which would allow far more effective control over street trading within the Borough.

2.7 The provisions within Schedule 4 allow the Council to designate a street according to one of three statutory designations:

- Prohibited street – street trading is prohibited at all times.
- Licence street – street trading is prohibited without a licence granted by the Council.
- Consent street – street trading is prohibited without the consent of the Council.

2.8 Where a street is not designated according to one of the above categories, the Council is not able to regulate trading on that street (except for using existing powers within Highways and / or Planning legislation).

2.9 Street Trading Consents and Street Trading Licences are similar in nature and are both very effective at controlling street trading. Consents have all of the benefits of licences but are much more flexible and allow for a quicker more dynamic response to issues that may affect trading, such as safety or security concerns or events taking place within an area.

2.10 Although not required by the legislation, it would be best practice for the discharge of the provisions within Schedule 4 to be done in accordance with a policy that sets out the Council's approach to street trading in Rotherham.

2.11 The Street Trading Policy will allow the Council to ensure that trading takes place in an appropriate manner and without adverse impact on the local community (for example by minimising nuisance and regulating the number and location of traders within an area).

2.12 The Policy will also allow the Council to set out conditions and expectations that would apply to street traders, such as:

- the safety and suitability of trading units
- the standard of hygiene for traders selling food items
- waste disposal
- trading times and limitations on trading in certain areas
- background checks on traders.

2.13 As certain locations are expected to be in high demand (for example those in Rotherham Town Centre), the draft Policy makes it clear that in some cases the limitations on the number and locations will mean that trading can only take place from a designated pitch or pitches.

2.14 To use the provisions within Schedule 4, the Council must first adopt the legislation. The process by which this must be done is set out in law, but in summary it will include:

- Undertaking consultation with key stakeholders with regard to the adoption of Schedule 4.
- Provision of notice to the Highways Authority and South Yorkshire Police.
- Publication of a public notice in the local press.
- Consideration of any comments received during the consultation period.
- If appropriate, the adoption of Schedule 4 by full Council.
- Publication of a notice confirming the decision to adopt Schedule 4.

2.15 As has been outlined above, it would be best practice to develop a Street Trading Policy that sets out the Council's approach to regulating street trading within the Borough. A draft Policy has been produced and is attached to this report as Appendix 1. It is proposed that the Policy is subject to a period of public consultation at the same time as the consultation on the adoption of Schedule 4. The outcome of the consultation and recommended next steps with regard to both of these elements will then be presented to Cabinet after the consultation has closed and the responses have been collated and analysed.

2.16 Schedule 4 makes it clear that the Council may charge such fees as is considered reasonable for the grant or renewal of a street trading licence or a street trading consent. It is difficult to quantify the costs that may be associated with the administration of a street trading framework within Rotherham. The most similar existing process is that of Pavement Licences issued under the Business and Planning Act 2020. This legislation allows Councils to charge fees up to £500 for new Pavement Licence applications and £350 for the renewal of existing licences.

2.17 With this in mind, it is proposed that the fee for a new consent is set at £500. The initial consent would be valid for a two-year period and will allow the Council to fully consider the impact and costs of the new framework and for any adjustments to be aligned with the annual budget and fee setting process.

Whilst full payment would normally be required in advance, in to support traders, the Council will accept the payment of the two-year consent fee by instalments (£170 payable on application, then three further payments of £110 due 6, 12 and 18 months after the consent is issued. In order to enable the instalment mechanism, traders will need to agree to setting up a direct debit arrangement. If a trader opts to pay by instalments, then the consent will be issued until the date that the first instalment becomes due, it will then be extended by the appropriate period once the instalment has been paid. The consent will lapse if the direct debit defaults and the instalment is not paid by other means by the due date and the trader will be required to apply for a new consent in order to continue to trade.

2.18 The Council recognises that the nature of street trading is such that some traders may only require a consent for a one-off event, or for a short period of time. In view of this, the Council is proposing to introduce lower fees for consents that last for a shorter period of time. The fees charged comprise an application fee and a contribution to the enforcement and monitoring of the street trading framework, and as a result the fee charged increases with the duration of the consent. The proposals for shorter term consents are as follows (these fees cannot be paid by instalments and must be paid in advance):

- one day consent £40
- one month consent £120
- three month consent £160
- six month consent £220
- one year consent £340

2.19 The fee for the one-day consent has been set at a low level as the Council recognises the importance of street trading for some new businesses. It is possible that the cost of the one-day licence may not cover the administrative cost of issuing the licence, but the Council is keen to support new businesses as they develop and as this is a new approach, full costs and overall levels of recovery are unknown. The suitability of this approach will be reviewed annually as part of the budget setting process.

2.20 The Council will charge an administration fee if the trader wishes to make any administrative amendments to the consent during the period that it is valid (for example and change of name or address). The fee will be comparable to the fees charged for administrative changes to other licences or permits that are issued by the Service (currently £28).

2.21 The proposal regarding the fee and the charging structure will be included in the consultation. The final fee structure will be confirmed and agreed when the Policy is brought back to Cabinet for approval later in the year (subject to the outcome of the consultation).

2.22 Although the provisions within Schedule 4 will significantly improve the Council's ability to regulate street trading in Rotherham, it is important to note that there are a number of activities that are not considered to be street trading and as result will fall outside of the framework outlined in this report. These exemptions include:

- Trading by any person that holds a Pedlar's Certificate issued under the Pedlars Act 1871 provided that the person is acting as a pedlar and not a street trader (Pedlar's Certificates are issued by South Yorkshire Police).
- Trading in a market or fair.
- Trading in a trunk road picnic area.
- Trading as a news vendor.
- Trading which is carried on at a premises used as a fuel filling station or is carried on at premises used as a shop or in the street adjoining premises so used and as part of the business of that shop.
- Selling items as a roundsman.
- Trading in accordance with a Pavement Licence (issued under Highways Legislation or the Business and Planning Act).
- Authorised street collections.

2.23 It should also be noted that if the provisions were adopted, it would be recommended for there to be a period of transition that would allow existing traders to adapt to the new framework and obtain relevant permissions if required.

2.24 Three approaches have been considered with regards to the control of street trading. With the exception of option one, all options will require the adoption of Schedule 4 and should be supported by a Street Trading Policy. The three approaches are outlined below.

2.25 a) <u>Designate all streets in the Borough as "Prohibited Streets"</u>

Designating all streets as prohibited streets will mean that street trading cannot take place in any part of the Borough at any time under any circumstances. As has already been said, street trading is beneficial to the local economy, provided it is effectively regulated. Indeed, in some circumstances the provision of street trading would be desirable and something that the Council would be keen to promote (for example, during an event). This option is not recommended.

2.26 b) <u>Designate all streets in the Borough as "Licence Streets"</u>

This option will see the introduction of a statutory framework that will allow the Council to implement conditions, limitations and other requirements that will allow the effective regulation of street trading. Under this option, street trading will only be permitted if the trader is in possession of a licence issued by the Council.

However, although there are benefits to this option, the statutory nature of the process restricts the Council's ability to vary or remove licences due to security, safety or operational reasons. For example, if circumstances were such that it would be undesirable to permit street trading in a particular area at a particular time (due to security or safety concerns), then the Council would be unable to vary a licence or prevent street trading taking place as these

reasons are not specified within the legislation. This would mean that the Council would be unable to take urgent action as a result of specific local circumstances. Therefore, this option is not recommended.

2.27 c) Designate all streets in the Borough as "Consent Streets"

This option will allow the Council to effectively control street trading across the Borough through the issuing of consents. Consents will be issued in accordance with a Street Trading Policy, and the Council will have the ability to apply conditions, limitations and other requirements (similar to the licences referred to in option three above).

The Council has the option of giving different designations to different streets across the Borough (e.g. designating some streets prohibited streets, and others as consent streets), and this option has been considered. However, this approach could potentially restrict the Council's ability to deal with applications on a case-by-case basis. For example, a general prohibition on street trading in a particular area would prevent the trading from taking place even if the individual circumstances meant that such trading was desirable on a particular occasion (for example during a special event).

The use of consents will have the same benefits as the use of street trading licences, but their use will allow the Council to vary or remove a consent if this is required due to operational, safety or security reasons (which would not be possible if licences were to be used). The ability to effectively regulate street trading, combined with the additional flexibility that consents afford means that this option is the preferred approach. **This is the recommended option.**

2.28 All of the above approaches would require a level of enforcement in order to ensure that the specific requirements relevant to each approach are being adhered to. There will be requirement for enforcement in the first year as the requirements are phased in.

2.29 Enforcement of the street trading framework will primarily fall to the Council's Licensing Service, and this activity will be undertaken in addition to the existing enforcement activity that is undertaken by the officers within the service. However, there will be an expectation that other Council teams will assist with enforcement of the framework where the opportunity arises.

2.30 Enforcement activity will include, but is not limited to, identification of traders operating without the relevant consents, failure to adhere to consent conditions and non-compliance with the requirements of individual consents (e.g. trading times and locations not being adhered to).

2.31 Enforcement will be undertaken in accordance with the Council General Enforcement Policy, with the ultimate sanction being the removal of a street trading consent and / or the prosecution of an individual trader.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 There are two options that have been considered.

3.2 Option 1 – the Council does not consult on the adoption of Schedule 4 and the implementation of a Street Trading framework.

3.3 This may arise either because Cabinet chose not to introduce the framework or decides to introduce the framework without consultation.

3.4 This option is not recommended for the following reasons:

3.5

1. The current arrangement is ineffective and inconsistent. The effective regulation of street trading is considered to be a contributor to the Borough's regeneration plans and its continued economic success.

   A failure to adopt Schedule 4 and a Street Trading Policy would allow this approach to continue, and the issues / concerns identified within this report will not be addressed.

2. Choosing to adopt Schedule 4 and introducing Street Trading Policy without having first consulted on them would open the Council up to legal challenge via judicial review. In addition, by not taking the views of stakeholders into account, the Council increases the likelihood of there being unintended consequences introduced by the policy (which may have a detrimental impact on the economic health of local businesses and the Borough in general).

3.6 Option 2 – consult on a proposal to adopt Schedule 4 and a Street Trading Policy.

This option will enable the Council to give consideration to introducing a street trading framework that has been developed after taking into account the views of all stakeholders that could potentially be affected by the policy.

The Council would also have the confidence that any policy introduced would withstand a legal challenge and would best deliver the aims and objectives of the Street Trading Policy.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 If approved by Cabinet, officers will commence a formal consultation exercise within three weeks of the decision. The consultation will last for six weeks, and include the following:

- Online consultation via the Council's website.
- Direct consultation with any existing street traders that the Council is aware of.
- Consultation with groups representing communities and businesses in the local area.
- Consultation with groups representing children and young people, vulnerable adults and those sharing a protected characteristic.

4.2 Following the consultation period, the responses will be analysed and collated and a report presented to Cabinet for consideration with a recommendation regarding the adoption of Schedule 4 and the approval of a Street Trading Policy (dependent on the outcome of the consultation).

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The consultation will commence by the end of July 2026 and will continue until the end of September 2026.

5.2 A report regarding the findings of the consultation will be presented to Cabinet in late 2026 or early 2027, following analysis of consultation responses.

5.3 As referred to in section 2 above, there is a statutory process that must be followed should the decision be made to formally adopt Schedule 4. Further detail on the timelines associated with this will be provided in the report that is presented to Cabinet following the consultation.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 This report proposes introducing a range of fees for a new Street Trading consent. These are detailed in 2.17 and 2.18. These amounts are not final and may change as a result of consultation. It is not envisaged that any charging will take place before 1st April 2027. This timing would allow the proposed fee to be considered as part of the annual Budget and Council Tax Report and approved by full Council if agreed.

6.2 It is not known how much income this new fee will generate and whether it will cover the costs of administering and enforcing the licences. This will be considered as part of the next update to Cabinet.

6.3 There are no implications for procurement introduced by this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Section 3 Local Government [Miscellaneous Provisions] Act 1982 provides the power for the Local Authority to resolve that Schedule 4 to the Act shall apply to their district and, if a council so resolves, that the Schedule shall come into force in their district on such day as may be specified in the resolution.

7.2 Schedule 4 of the Act relates to street trading which is defined as the selling or exposing or offering for sale of any article (including a living thing) in a street. Paragraph 2.22 of this report outlines the activities under Schedule 4 which are not deemed to be street trading.

7.3 The Local Authority cannot pass a resolution unless a notice of intention has been published in a local newspaper, a copy has been served on the chief of police for the area and on the responsible highway authority, and where applicable the consent of the highway authority or relevant corporation has been obtained. Schedule 4 sets out the publication requirements and detail as

to representations which can be made to the Local Authority in relation to the proposed resolution.

7.4 Schedule 4 Paragraph 9 sets out the provision around the setting of fees. A district council (which includes a Metropolitan Council) may charge such fees as they consider reasonable for the grant or renewal of a street trading licence or a street trading consent.

7.5 Adopting a Street Trading Policy will ensure that the Local Authority operates consistently and provides transparency to those who wish to apply, which in turn minimises the risk of legal challenge in relation to the decision-making process.

7.6 Consultation is legally required as set out within Schedule 4 once a decision has been made to adopt the provisions and pass a resolution; there are also strict notification requirements. There is no legal requirement to consult prior to this point but it is recommended, particularly given that the adoption of a specific policy is also being considered. To consult at this point ensures transparency and allows the views of businesses, residents, stakeholders etc to be taken into account.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 This report is seeking the approval of Cabinet to undertake a period of consultation with regard to the control of street trading, and as such there are no HR implications introduced by this report.

8.2 The administration of the Street Trading Policy (if introduced) will be undertaken by the Council's Licensing Service. The introduction of a framework is not expected to result in excessive demands being placed upon the service, and therefore at this stage any demand will be met utilising existing resources.

8.3 The need for additional staffing resources will be reassessed after the first year; any increase in staff numbers will be funded through the application fees associated with the framework. Fees will be reassessed if additional staff are required and will be set at a level that ensures full cost recovery (which will mean that fees may increase after year one).

8.4 The enforcement of the street trading framework will primarily be undertaken by the Licensing Service, however there would be an expectation that other services would offer support as appropriate (for example, the Street Safe and Trading Standards teams). The involvement of partners such as South Yorkshire Police will also be requested where appropriate, although it is accepted that the involvement of the police may not always be possible.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 This report is seeking approval to consult (rather than a decision to adopt the legislation or policy), therefore there are not thought to be any direct implications for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

9.2 However, the proposed street trading framework will help to protect children and vulnerable people through the restrictions / conditions that it will introduce. For example:

- Applicants seeking permission to trade on the street will be required to provide a Disclosure Certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service (basic level). This will allow the Council to assess the suitability of applicants prior to providing permissions to trade.

- Restrictions with regard to the locations and times that traders can trade (not trading outside schools / colleges at certain times or on certain days).

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An initial screening assessment has been carried out, and this indicates that the proposals within this report will not have any implications for equalities or human rights.

10.2 A full consultation process will be undertaken prior to any decision being made to adopt the legislation or approve the Street Trading Policy; this will include groups representing those that share protected characteristics. Any comments received will be fully considered prior to a decision being made.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 This report is seeking the approval of Cabinet to undertake a period of consultation with regard to the control of Street Trading, and as such there are no implications for CO2 emissions and climate change.

11.2 However, if the proposal is introduced, conditions will require a consent holder to dispose of waste in accordance with Environmental legislation – a failure to do so may result in the consent being withdrawn.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partners that are introduced by the proposals within this report.

12.2 As referred to above, it may be the case that the Licensing Service request support from partners such as South Yorkshire Police with regard to the enforcement of the street trading framework (if introduced). There is however no expectation that support will be provided as it will depend on the resources that are available.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 A failure to effectively manage street traders within the Borough could have an adverse impact on the regeneration activity taking place within the Borough and the economic stability of businesses that operate in areas that are attractive to street traders (Rotherham Town Centre for example).

13.2 The introduction of the framework will address this risk but will itself present additional risks related to the efficient administration and enforcement of the street trading framework. As has been referred to above, in the first year it is expected that this activity will be met using existing resources – this will be reviewed at the end of year one and any additional resources will be funded through the fees that are charged as part of the framework (if adopted).

13.3 Any incidental costs associated with the introduction and implementation of a street trading framework will be met from within the Licensing Service budget (these costs include those associated with advertising/public notices, consultation etc.).

14. Accountable Officers

Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	19/06/2026
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	19/06/2026
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	17/06/26

Report Author: *Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager*
01709 254955 or alan.pogorzelec@rotherham.gov.uk Alan Pogorzelec, Licensing Manager

01709 254955 or alan.pogorzelec@rotherham.gov.uk

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Appendix 1

Rotherham MBC
Street Trading Policy

(DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION)

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Introduction

The aim of this Street Trading Policy ("the Policy") is to enable the Council to take a consistent and transparent approach regarding the control of street trading within the Rotherham Borough.

It is anticipated that the approach will create a street trading environment which complements premise-based trading, is sensitive to the needs of residents, provides diversity and consumer choice.

This Policy relates to all street trading activities within the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham.

Whilst each application will be dealt with on its own merits, this Policy gives prospective applicants an early indication as to whether their application is likely to be granted or not. It also provides prospective applicants with details of what is expected of them should an application be granted.

The Policy recognises the importance of street trading in Rotherham and that it can add to the vibrancy and vitality of the area whilst not adding to nuisance, crime, and disorder, or cause other problems.

This Policy will be subject to monitoring and review after five years or more frequently should legislative changes deem this necessary. However, the Licensing Service will regularly review the policy and make any changes to reflect minor, administrative or legislative changes or to amend any inconsistencies between the legislation and the policy. Any significant changes (such as a significant change to the application process) will only be made after appropriate consultation and with the approval of the Council's Cabinet.

The overall objectives of this Policy are to:

- Ensure that any permitted street trading is properly regulated as to where, when, and how it takes place.
- Prevent obstruction of the Borough's highways.
- Ensure the safety of the public and of the traders permitted to trade.
- Ensure any activities do not cause nuisance or annoyance to the public and those traders surrounding the permitted street trader.
- Protect public health through the control of street trading.
- Ensure that appropriate safeguarding measures are in place for children and vulnerable persons.
- Ensure that traders operate within the law and act fairly in their dealings with the public.

Policy Application

Street Trading means the selling, exposing, or offering for sale of any article in a street. The term 'street' includes any road, footway, or other area to which the public have access without payment (this can include private land and car parks).

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (hereafter referred to as "the Council" or "Rotherham Council") has adopted Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1982 which means that consent is required before trading in certain places.

This Policy applies to all street trading activity in Rotherham. The policy does not apply to:

- activities such as placing goods for sale on the street from a shop, street cafes operating from fixed premises or the siting of "A" boards on the street (as this is not within the remit of the Act), or
- activities which are not considered to be street trading, including:

    - Trading as a pedlar under the authority of a 'Pedlars Certificate.'
    - Trading conducted by a roundsman.
    - Trading in a charter market or a statutory market.
    - Trading as a news vendor (newspapers and periodicals).
    - Trading at a petrol station.
    - Trading in a trunk road picnic area provided by the Secretary of State under section 122 of the Highways Act 1980.
    - Trading on or at premises used as a shop or in a street adjoining premises so used and as part of the business of the shop.
    - The operation of facilities for recreation or refreshment under Part VIIA of the Highways Act 1980.

As a matter of policy, a Street Trading Consent will not be required for the following activities:

- Sales of articles by householders on land within the curtilage of their property, for example garage sales.
- Goods from working farms or smallholdings sold at the premises where they were produced.
- Trading as part of an established travelling fair where permission for the event has already been granted by the Council.
- Trading as part of a market where permission for the market has already been granted by the Council.

Street Designation

The Act states a Local Authority can designate its streets in three ways; these are:

- ‘Consent Street’ – which is a street in which street trading is prohibited without the consent of the local authority.
- ‘License Street’ – which is a street in which street trading is prohibited without a license granted by the local authority.
- ‘Prohibited Street’ – which is a street in which street trading is prohibited.

The Council has adopted Schedule 4 of the Act for the whole of its areas and on XXXXXXXXX made a Resolution to determine that all streets within the Rotherham Borough are designated as ’Consent Streets’ with effect from XXXXXXXXXX. The effect of this designation is that street trading in any street within this area is not permitted without first obtaining a Street Trading Consent from the Council.

It is a criminal offence to engage in street trading in a Consent Street without authorisation.

Food Traders

In addition to having a Street Trading Consent, any traders selling food must be registered with the appropriate Food Authority as a food business. If you operate a mobile food vehicle, you should be registered with the council where your vehicles are kept, this is not where you trade. All traders must be registered before applying and be able to provide evidence of your registration when applying for a Street Trading Consent.

Whether a trader is hot or cold food a current Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate will still be required.

Most but not all, food businesses get a food hygiene rating, ratings range from 0 to 5, with 5 being the best. Ratings are allocated by inspectors following their inspection of your business, a sticker will be given stating your food hygiene rating, and this must be displayed where customers can see it.

As a food trader we would expect you to achieve and maintain a minimum Food Hygiene Rating of a ‘3’.

Existing businesses whose food hygiene rating falls below a ‘3’, will automatically suspend their current Street Trading Consent. The Consent will come out of suspension if and when the minimum food hygiene rating is regained. Continued suspension may result in the Consent being terminated.

New applicants will be required to supply evidence of their existing food hygiene rating of a ‘3’ or above, or their ‘awaiting inspection’ status.

All food businesses will be checked to ensure they are registered, and their hygiene rating or inspection verified.

Mobile Traders

Mobile traders must move from position to position remaining stationary for no longer than 20 minutes to initially attract customers and thereafter only long enough to serve customers present. The vehicle must move on as soon as the last customer has been served, and no other customer is clearly awaiting service.

The Consent Holder must ensure that any stopping position does not infringe any parking or traffic requirements or cause obstruction of the highway and does not present any dangers to other road users or pedestrians.

A Street Trading Consent does not allow trading in Council owned car parks. Additional permissions would be required from Parking Services.

Mobile street traders must not stop within 100 metres of any school, measured from the main entrance to the school grounds, during the school day from an hour before and an hour after without the written consent of the school. Any written consents obtained from the school must be provided at the application stage.

The use of Chimes and other audible signals:

- Should be operated between the hours of noon and 7pm.
- Should be operated solely for informing members of the public that the commodity is on sale from the vehicle.
- Should be operated as not to give reasonable cause for annoyance to persons in the vicinity.
- Should operate producing a noise level in any direction of no more than L_{Amax} 80dB (at 7.5m)
- Should not operate with a playing time lasting more than 12 seconds.
- Should be played once only on the approach to each stopping place, and only once when the vehicle is stationary, and never at intervals of less than 2 minutes.
- Should not be played more often than once every 2 hours in a particular length of street. A ‘particular length of Street’ should normally be interpreted as being a length of street up to 500 metres long.
- Should not be played when in sight of another vendor whether moving or stationary, which might reasonably be taken to be in the street for trading purposes.
- Should not be played in areas where people may be especially sensitive to their sound. In particular, they should not be played:
    - Within 50m of any hospital or similar institution Within 50m of a school during school hours.
    - Within 50m of a place of worship on a Sunday or other recognised days of worship.

Mobile ice cream vans are vehicles adapted for the sale of ice cream and only sell ice cream, cold soft drinks, cold sandwiches, confectionary, crisps, and frozen lollipops.

Static Street Trading

Static Street Trading is trading in one site for more than 20 minutes. If a trader wishes to move around various parts of the borough, they are required to apply for the appropriate Mobile Street Trading Consent.

Static Street Trading is where a pitch is identified, and a Consent Holder trades only from that pitch within the terms and conditions of the Consent issued.

These pitches are usually very specific, and traders are given consent based on the detailed plan submitted with their application.

It would be up to the trader to locate a pitch and make an appropriate application with the Council.

Applicants must contact the appropriate services prior to submitting an application to discuss any issues they may have and whether any other permissions are required.

It is not possible for traders to move pitch, even just a short distance, without the prior consent of the Council.

A Multiple Static Site Consent can be requested for traders who wish to trade in more than one location on a different day(s) of the week under the same Street Trading Consent. A total of two trading pitches will be authorised.

All applications will be dealt with under their own individual merits, however when determining an application, the proximity of existing nearby shops, cafes, and other trades that primarily trade in the same articles will be taken into account.

Sale of Alcohol

To sell alcohol, as well as having to hold a Street Trading Consent, licence authorisation under the Licensing Act 2003 would also be required. Where authorisation is granted under the Licensing Act 2003 conditions may be attached to the Street Trading Consent. These conditions may include but are not restricted to the following:

- The trader adopting a challenge 25 policy.
- Restrictions on the sale of alcohol in open containers
- Times at which alcohol may be sold, and the locations not to be near schools, voluntary or third sector services.

Any street trader wishing to sell alcohol should contact the licensing team for further information.

Commercial Selling of Vehicles on the Highway

The commercial selling of a vehicle on the highway falls within the scope of street trading and therefore a Street Trading Consent is required from Rotherham Council.

Additional restrictions are set out in Section 3 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. This states that a person is guilty of an offence if at any time, acting in the course of a business selling motor vehicles, leaving two or more motor vehicles parked within 500 metres of each other on a road(s) where they are exposed or advertised for sale.

Trading on Private Land

Where your proposed trading pitch is on privately owned land you must seek permission from the relevant landowner. You must provide us with a letter or email from the landowner confirming you have permission to trade on their land, including the days and times of permitted trade. We will require the landowners' details for verification purposes.

Unregistered land is land that has not been recorded in the Land Registry, which is the official database of land and property ownership in England and Wales. Unregistered land may have no clear title or evidence of ownership, or it may have been inherited or transferred informally over time. Trading on unregistered land without authorisation can expose you to legal risks and liabilities, such as legal proceedings from the owner of the land. If a Street Trading Consent is to be considered we may request further documentation to be signed and agree to trading at your own risk, for these types of requests we will always seek advice from our legal department before any decisions can be made.

The onus is on the applicant to research the proposed trading site, i.e. planning permission, legal right to trade, food and safety, waste provisions, highway restrictions etc.

Trading on National Highways' Trunk Roads

Any consent issued to trade on a National Highways operational assets (such as the A57), will be subject to the following additional conditions and restrictions:

- Applications will automatically be refused if there are any safety or environmental concerns.
- Semi-permanent structures such as 'portacabins' or sheds will not be erected in any of the laybys and must be in a position to leave at a moment's notice.
- A Street Trading Consent will not supersede National Highways right to ask a Street Trader to move or cease trading if they feel there are safety or environmental concerns.
- Vehicles/trailers should be sited in an 'ox bow' type layby where grass or concrete areas separate the layby from the main carriageway.
- All vehicles/trailer units must be removed at the end of each working day.
- No flags or signs are to be placed on National Highways land.
- All litter must be removed at end of each working day.
- Any Street Trader can be asked to move or cease trading by National Highways, the local authority or emergency services without notice.
- National Highways reserve the right to close any of the laybys on both a temporary and a permanent basis, Street Traders will have no right to recompense.

Street Trading in a Town or District Centre

Where appropriate, the Council will issue street trading consents that will permit trading from specific streets or pitches within a town or district centre within the Borough.

Any consent issued for such areas may be subject to additional conditions or restrictions, which may include limitations as to the number, location and trading times.

There may be times when the permitted area will be unavailable due to utility, maintenance or construction works. This is a normal function of the Highways Authority and utility companies and will not, therefore be subject to compensation.

For special events which may take place within these areas, the Council may issue a notice suspending or revoking all street trading consents for a particular area and / or period of time. No compensation will be offered for relocation or removal of a street trading consent under these circumstances.

Businesses may be permitted to place up to one 'A' board on the highway – this should not exceed 800mm in height and 500mm in width. 'A' boards and other free standing pavement signs should be placed, either in an area 600mm immediately in front of their stall or in line with an adjacent line of bollards. It should be remembered that at least 1.8m of clear footway must be retained between the board and the stall or bollards/obstruction, and boards should allow at least 450mm clearance between the board and the kerb edge.

External tables and chairs may only be used upon written approval from the Council.

Application Process

An application for a Street Trading Consent cannot be given tacit approval, as it is in the public interest that the Council must undertake checks before any application can be granted. Consents will be provided in writing to the person named on the application form.

Any application for a Street Trading Consent must meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must be over 17 years of age.
- The name of the business must not be the same as, or be similar to, that of an existing static retail business or another street trader

The application must be submitted with the following documents and information:

- A completed and signed Street Trading Consent Application Form
- The appropriate application fee, a non-refundable fee of £100, is payable for an initial enquiry to carry out checks including the suitability of a proposed location. If the site is not approved the £100 fee will be retained to cover administrative costs. If the application is approved the applicant must submit the balance of the relevant fee before the Council will issue the Street Trading Consent.
- A recent passport size photograph of all Consent Holders.
- Applicants must have obtained a valid basic DBS check dated within 6 months (see section 17 for more information on DBS's)
- Proof of identification for name and address (you cannot provide one form of identification for both:
    - Proof of name: current passport, birth certificate, current UK, or EEA photocard driving licence, or benefit letter.
    - Proof of address: utility bill or bank statement issued within the last 3 months, current council tax year bill, UK driving licence, tenancy agreement or mortgage statement.
- Proof of right to work in the UK: a current passport, drivers' licence, residence permit or a bank statement.
- In respect of an application for a Consent to trade from a fixed site, a location plan of where the vehicle or stall will be positioned in an appropriate scale to identify the exact location of the vehicle or stall and surrounding areas and streets. The plan must clearly identify the proposed street trading site, and the ground dimensions it will cover.
- Where the Consent area is on private land written approval is required from the landowner including trading days and times.
- Colour photographs of the vehicle/stall from which trading is proposed to take place, the images must show the front, back and side of the vehicle/stall.
- Dimensions of the vehicle or stall and any identifying marks, e.g. vehicle registration etc.
- Gas safety certificate for any trailer or vehicle.
- Vehicle test certificate
- Declare you have registered as a food business (where appropriate).

- If trading in food, evidence and details of any food hygiene qualifications, food hygiene score rating or awaiting inspections status.
- Any permissions or consents already granted about your proposed operation, for example, planning consents, late night refreshment premises licence, cafe licence or waste disposal agreement.
- A valid certificate of insurance policy covering third party and public liability risks for at least £5 million, which must cover street trading.
- Any other additional information specified on the application form or requested by the Licensing Service that may reasonably be required in order to assess the suitability of the applicant, trading unit or site.

Once all the above documents and relevant application fees have been submitted the Council will conduct all necessary checks and consultations before deciding on whether to grant a Street Trading Consent.

Other than judicial review, there is no statutory right of appeal against a decision to refuse to grant, amend, vary, or revoke a Street Trading Consent.

Street trading consents will be issued subject to a number of conditions, these will be applied to consents on a case by case basis. The general conditions outlined at Appendix A will normally apply to all consents, however the Council reserves the right to add, amend or omit conditions to individual consents as is considered necessary.

Following receipt of an application, advice may be sought from the Highways Authority with regards to the size of the layby and to ensure that there is safe access and egress.

Applicants shall ensure that any location supports the aims and objective of this Policy and should take the following into account when deciding on a location.

- Traffic flow – applicants should ensure there are enough potential customers to sustain a business.
- Size of layby – applicants should ensure there is sufficient room for numerous cars/lorries, etc.
- Proximity to competition – applicants must consider current trading of similar goods in the area. Street Trading Consent will normally be refused where there is similar trading of goods in the area.
- Toilet facilities – applicants must consider such facilities are provided if selling hot food and drinks.
- Access to and egress from layby – applicants must ensure that there is safe access into and egress from the layby.
- Crossing a carriageway – applicants must ensure that customers are not obliged to cross a carriageway to access the layby.

Renewals

Street Trading Consents that have not been renewed by their expiry date will automatically cease to exist and trading must cease until such time as a new Street Trading Consent has been granted.

All renewal applications must be submitted a minimum of 20 working days prior to the expiry of the current Street Trading Consent to allow for processing of the application. A completed renewal form and application fee will need to be submitted.

Generally, no further consultation will be necessary when dealing with a renewal application, however the Council reserves the right to consult where there are or have been concerns raised in the previous Street Trading Consent period.

Applications for renewal of a Street Trading Consent will be granted once proved that no substantiated complaints have been received regarding:

- The manner in which the Consent Holder has conducted their business.
- The Consent Holder or any authorised assistant's conduct
- Where no relevant objections have been received
- In addition, a new criminal record disclosure will only be required every 3 years.

The majority of documents requested in the initial application process will need to be produced at every renewal.

Checks will be made to ensure there have been no changes from the original application, these checks will include verification of any permissions granted including the trading location.

The responsibility for ensuring renewal of Street Trading Consents rests solely with the Consent Holder, the Council is not obliged to send out reminders. If a renewal application and fee are not submitted, then the Street Trading Consent will lapse.

A renewal application will not be accepted after the expiry of any existing Street Trading Consent. The effect of this will be that a trader will not be permitted to trade until a new application and fee has been submitted and the Street Trading Consent is granted.

Street trading consents will be issued subject to a number of conditions, these will be applied to consents on a case by case basis. The general conditions outlined at Appendix A will normally apply to all consents, however the Council reserves the right to add, amend or omit conditions to individual consents as is considered necessary.

Transfers and Amendments

Street Trading Consents are non-transferable, the Consent Holder may employ any person to assist in the conduct of the business but may not let, assign, or part with his/her interest or possession under this Street Trading Consent or any part thereof but he may surrender it at any time. The rights granted by the Street Trading Consent cannot be sublet, transferred, or shared with any other person or party and is personal to the Consent Holder.

No amendments (e.g., date changes, location, type of stall or van) may be made without the prior written consent of the Council.

Any Street Trading Consent which is valid but is no longer required should be surrendered to the Council in writing.

Fees

The fees associated with the Street Trading framework will be periodically reviewed by the Council.

Additional charges may be made for the recovery of reasonable costs associated with the collection of refuse, cleansing of streets or other remedial work required due to the acts or omissions of a street trader.

Should the Consent Holder wish to vary the Street Trading Consent at any time during the duration of the Street Trading Consent, an administration fee will be charged. The administration fee will be in line with administration fees charged for other licences and consents issued by the Licensing Service.

Where a Street Trading Consent is surrendered during the life of the Consent, no refund will be made unless there are exceptional circumstances.

If a Street Trading Consent is revoked by the Council due to a change in external circumstances (e.g. closure of a street due to roadworks) then a pro rata refund will be issued of any fee paid (excluding instalments that are due but not paid by the time of the revocation). Deductions may be taken from the remaining balance before refunding the Consent Holder for the reasonable cost of repair to any damage caused, removal of any discarded materials, additional cleansing costs, along with appropriate administration fees.

If a Street Trading Consent is revoked by the Council due to breaches of conditions or non-compliance with this policy by the Consent Holder, no refund will be made by unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Payment must be made in full when the application is submitted. The only exception to this is for 2 year consents where the trader opts to pay by instalments. In these cases, the consent would be issued until the date that the next instalment falls due and will be extended once each instalment is paid, If an instalment is not paid within 28 days of it becoming due, then the consent will lapse and the trader will be required to apply for a new consent.

Disclosure and Barring Service Checks

Whether you have been convicted of any relevant offence, we will ask for a basic DBS disclosure to be submitted with each application. Any convictions or proven criminal behaviour will be assessed. A basic disclosure will be required every three years once an application is granted.

Guidance regarding basic checks, including how to apply and the information disclosed on a basic certificate, please visit: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/basic-checks

If any convictions are recorded on the certificate, the application will be referred for further internal evaluation to determine a decision.

See Appendix B for guidelines relating to the relevance of convictions.

General Data Protection Regulations

The Council is committed to compliance with all applicable Data Protection Law. This includes the Data Protection Act 2018, the Data Protection Act 2018 is the UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further information about our use of personal information can be found on the Council's website. www.rotherham.gov.uk

Enforcement

Where activities are conducted without a Street Trading Consent or where conditions are breached, the Council will look to gather evidence and take enforcement action as appropriate.

The Highway's Authority and South Yorkshire Police have the power to remove any obstructions from the highway.

Any enforcement action will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's General Enforcement Policy, and in particular will be:

- Proportionate in applying law and seeking compliance.
- Consistent in approach.
- Targeted towards Consent Holders not complying with their Street Trading Consent and conditions or unlawful activity.
- Transparent in helping Consent Holders to understand what is expected of them.

APPENDIX A

STREET TRADING CONSENT STANDARD CONDITIONS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982 SCH. 4

The Street Trading Consent will stipulate the Consent Area, the type of vehicle or stall, and description of goods, any other relevant information, and additional conditions. The Consent Holder must comply with all conditions outlined in this Policy. Failure to comply with any condition attached to the Street Trading Consent May result in the revocation of such Consent.

Rotherham Council reserves the right to alter or amend these conditions at any time.

1. Consent holders shall notify the Council of any changes to their details such as name, address, telephone number or email address as soon as it occurs. A fee is applicable for amendments.
2. The consent holder will be issued with a Street Trading Consent, certificate, and conditions.
3. The Consent Holder shall at all times have a copy of the Street Trading Consent available for inspection on request to any Police Officer or Officer of the Council.
4. The Certificate must be clearly displayed on the vehicle or stall and must be visible to the public and customers.
5. Where the Consent Area is on private land where the public have access without payment, there is a requirement to have a Street Trading Consent. The applicant for the Consent must first obtain prior written approval from the landowner and this must accompany the application.
6. Where the Consent area is on council land, unless approval is obtained from the council, no street trading activities will be allowed.
7. The grant of a Street Trading Consent shall not be deemed to give any approval or consent which may be needed under any Byelaw, enactment, or regulation other than schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
8. The Consent Holder shall meet all statutory duties and obligations placed upon them relevant to the nature of the street trading e.g., planning consent, Health, and Safety at Work Act 1974, Environmental Protection Act 1990, Food Safety Act 1990, Food Safety and Hygiene Regulations 2013, Regulations (EC) No. 852/2004, The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, and the Licensing Act 2003. This list is not exhaustive, and it is the responsibility of the Consent Holder to ensure full compliance of all relevant legislation particularly any relevant Highway legislation.
9. The Consent Holder is not and shall not hold themselves out as being the servant or agent of the council whether orally or in writing.

10. The Consent Holder shall not hold themselves out as having the power to make, vary, discharge, or waive any byelaw or regulation of any kind.

11. It is the duty of the Consent Holder to establish the ownership of the land to which the Street Trading Consent relates and seek permission from the owner to trade from that location. This may involve additional restrictions and payment for which the Council are not responsible.

12. Consent Holders and authorised assistants must be 17 years of age.

13. The Consent Holder must have a valid insurance policy for public liability providing cover to a minimum amount of £5,000,000, a certificate of which must be produced upon application.

14. There may be times when the permitted area will be unavailable due to utility, maintenance or construction works. This is a normal function of the Highways Authority and utility companies and will not, therefore be subject to compensation.

15. Nothing contained in these conditions shall relieve or excuse the Consent Holder or his/her employees or agents from any legal duty or liability and the Consent Holder shall indemnify the Council in respect of all claims, actions, demands, or costs arising from the Street Trading Consent.

16. No damage shall be caused to the public highway as a result of the street trading activity taking place and the Consent Holder shall reimburse the council of any costs in repairing any damage caused.

17. The Consent Holder shall not sell any type of food, goods, or merchandise other than that specified in the Street Trading Consent.

18. The Consent Holder must confine the selling of goods and merchandise within the approved consent area and will not be permitted to erect additional tables, awnings, or any other structure.

19. There shall be no sale of goods that are likely to conflict with those provided by nearby shops and premises.

20. No live animals (e.g., mammal, reptile, fish, or bird) shall be permitted to be sold from any stall or vehicle.

21. The Consent Holder shall not knowingly allow the sale of any counterfeit/fake material and shall comply with any relevant Trading Standards legislation.

22. The Consent Holder shall not knowingly allow the sale of any goods prohibited for sale by Rotherham Council. We have a range of items that are excluded, details can be obtained from the Licensing Service.

23. No trading of hot food or drinks shall be permitted before 5am or after 11pm or sales of alcohol unless a Premises Licence has been issued or a Temporary Events Notice served on the Council and objected to, in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

24. The Consent Holder shall not hold any auction or like sale.

25. Trading may only take place on the days and during the times specified on the Street Trading Consent.

26. The Consent Holder shall trade only from the consent area indicated on the Street Trading Consent.

27. A Consent Holder may employ any other person(s) to assist them in trading without a further Consent being required.

28. Consent Holders and any authorised assistant(s) shall ensure that the public and authorised officers are always treated with courtesy. Consent Holders shall ensure that their authorised assistant(s) are competent, courteous, and helpful.

29. The Consent Holder shall conduct a risk assessment to ensure that highway safety is not compromised and shall not prevent the Highways Authority, National Highways, and utilities from undertaking its duties.

    (Please note works such as excavations can be carried out without prior notice. The Council will revoke a Street Trading Consent following any reasonable request from the Highways Authority and National Highways (where applicable)).

30. The Consent Holder shall conduct their business in such a manner to ensure they do not:

    - Cause a nuisance to the occupiers of adjoining properties.
    - Cause an obstruction to the vehicles or pedestrians on the highway.
    - Cause a danger to occupiers of adjoining properties or to other users of the highway.
    - Cause annoyance or inconvenience to the users of the highway.

31. A Consent Holder may trade in a Consent Street from a vehicle or stall. The Consent Holder shall only trade from a vehicle or stall described in the Street Trading Consent.

32. Any vehicle or stall used must be positioned entirely within the approved Consent area.

33. Any vehicle or stall used by a Consent Holder in the course of street trading shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with any relevant legislation and to the satisfaction of all reasonable requirements of the Council and (where applicable) National Highways as to its construction, safety, appearance, and any display of advertisements. A high standard of presentation and appearance will be expected.

    In addition, the Consent Holder shall maintain the stall or vehicle in a clean state at all times and its structure shall be kept in good order, repair, and condition.

34. Any motor vehicle used for the purpose of Street Trading shall be in a roadworthy condition and have the relevant documents i.e. insurance, tax, and MOT to make the use of that vehicle on a road legal.

35. The vehicle or stall shall not be left unattended at any time and shall always be supervised by a person over the age of 17 years.

36. Outside of the permitted daily trading period the Consent Holder shall remove the approved vehicle or stall from the Consent area together with any and all objects or things of any nature whatsoever placed by the Consent Holder in the Consent area (whether directly and ancillary to street trading or otherwise) which for the avoidance of doubt shall include (but shall not be limited to) planters, ornamental devices of any description, furniture, portable or other fencing, waste bins, heating and lighting apparatus, unless the Council has agreed otherwise previously in writing.

37. The Consent Holder or authorised assistant(s) shall remove the vehicle/stall and goods within a reasonable time after the expiry of the time for trading specified in the Street Trading Consent.

38. The Consent Holder or authorised assistant(s) shall remove the vehicle/stall and goods for so long as may be necessary in the event of an emergency or in exercise of the council's highways power and duties, if reasonable required to do so by an authorised officer.

39. No Consent Holder shall trade at their authorised Consent area on dates when road closure directives are in place for special events other than with the permission of the organisation applying for the closure order.

40. The Consent Holder or authorised assistant(s) shall not make any excavations or indentations of any description whatsoever in the surface of the highway or place or fix any equipment of any description on or in the said surface.

41. External tables and chairs may only be used upon written approval from the Council after first obtaining the appropriate highways permission from the highway's authority.

    (Please note 'the highway' includes the carriageway and a portion of the footway and the verge, the highway is not just the road.)

42. The Consent Holder and the vehicle/stall must comply with all relevant road traffic and highways legislation. Possession of a Street Trading Consent does not override parking restrictions or other traffic regulations.

43. A Consent Holder shall not leave their vehicle or stall in the street in which they trade, apart from in an approved parking space, except for the purpose of loading and unloading goods. Such loading and unloading shall be conducted as quickly as possible and the vehicle removed immediately on completion. This condition shall not apply when waiting restrictions are in force.

44. All businesses have a legal responsibility under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and other related legislation to safely contain and legally dispose of any waste produced from your business. You may be prosecuted should you not comply with these requirements.

45. The Consent Holder and authorised assistant(s) must provide adequate refuse storage adjacent to the sale area. The storage must be a substantial construction, waterproof and animal proof. The trade waste must be removed at the end of each working day or if the amount of refuse warrants it, when the container is full, whichever is the sooner. Public litterbins are not to be used.

46. The Consent Holder and authorised assistant(s) will be responsible for keeping the area surrounding the vehicle or stall in a clean and tidy condition.

47. The Consent Holder shall make such provisions as are necessary to prevent the deposit on any street of solid or liquid refuse and no discharge shall be made into any surface water drains.

48. Layby traders shall ensure that the whole of the layby and adjacent verge/footpath (but not the carriageway) to a distance of 10 metres be kept free of litter and refuse at all times, whilst resident.

49. The Consent Holder or authorised assistant(s) shall comply with any directions given by the council from time to time regarding the handling, storage, and removal of refuse.

50. No advertisements shall be displayed on the consent area that relates to any goods, commodities, or services other than what is approved in the Street Trading Consent.

51. No advertising is permitted other than on the stall or vehicle. The fixing of signs or marking of the highway or street furniture is specifically prohibited by the Highway's Authority.

52. No poster, advertisement, signage or decoration of an unsuitable material or nature shall be displayed, sold, or distributed on or about the vehicle or premises. For example, any material in breach of the Obscene Publications Act 1959, any material that is considered indecent, scandalous, offensive, or likely to be harmful to any person likely to purchase it.

53. Signage and similar material must not have the appearance of a traffic sign, or be of such a nature as to distract motorists and other road users on the highway,

54. A-Boards, flags or any other signage are not to be placed on National Highways land.

55. A-Boards should not exceed 800mm in height and 50mm in width. A boards and other free standing pavement signs should be placed, either in an area 600mm immediately in front of their stall or in line with an adjacent line of bollards. At least 1.8m of clear footway must be retained between the board and the stall or bollards/obstruction, and boards should allow at least 450mm clearance between the board and the kerb edge.

56. Any lighting provided at the Consent area by the Consent Holder must be approved by Rotherham Council. If the Consent Area is located on, or adjacent to the public highway, the lighting must also be approved by the highway's authority. Strobe lights will not be used in any circumstances.

APPENDIX B

Guidelines relating to the relevance of convictions for Street Trading

The Policy and guidelines relate to applications for the grant or renewal of a Street Trading Consent, as well as current holders of those authorisations.

These guidelines do not deal with every type of offence, and do not prevent the Council from taking into account offences not specifically addressed in the guidelines or other conduct, which may be relevant to an individual's application.

Each application will be decided on its own merits and will be assessed whether an applicant is a suitable person to hold or to continue to hold a Street Trading Consent. Unspent convictions or conduct of applicants will take the following into consideration:

- Whether the conviction/incident is relevant.
- The seriousness of the offence/incident.
- The length of time since the offence/incident occurred.
- Whether there is a pattern of offending behaviour or similar conduct.
- Whether a person's circumstances have changed since the offence/incident occurred, and the circumstances surrounding the offence/incident, and the explanation offered by that person.

Where an applicant has been convicted of a criminal offence, the Council cannot review the merits of the conviction.

The following are given as guidance to certain categories of offences for new applications or renewals of Street Trading Consents:

Dishonesty

Holders of a Street Trading Consent must be persons who can be trusted. It is easy for a dishonest trader to take advantage of the public. Members of the public using Street Trading outlets expect the trader to be honest and trustworthy.

For these reasons, a serious view will be taken of any unspent convictions involving dishonesty. In general, a new applicant or renewal application is unlikely to be granted a Street Trading Consent where an application is made within 3 to 5 years of a conviction or from the date of release from a period of imprisonment.

Violence

Street traders will have close contact with the public, therefore, to minimise any risks, a serious view will be taken where offences of violence involve a loss of life, a Street Trading Consent will be refused.

In other cases, a period of 3 to 10 years, free of convictions, or from the date of release from a period of imprisonment, depending upon the nature and seriousness of the offence(s), will generally be required before an application is likely to be considered favourably.

Drugs

Where an applicant as a conviction for an offence that relates to the supply or importation of drugs and the date of the conviction or the release date from a period of imprisonment is less than 5 to 10 years before the date of the application, a Street Trading Consent will be refused. After 5 years from a conviction or the date of release from a period of imprisonment, the circumstances of the offence and any evidence which shows that a person is now suitable to hold a Street Trading Consent will be taken into consideration.

An application will normally be refused where the applicant has a conviction for an offence relating to the possession of drugs and the date of the conviction or the release date from a period of imprisonment is within 3 to 5 years of the date of the application. After a period of 3 years from conviction or the date of release from the period of imprisonment, consideration will be given to the circumstances of the offence and any evidence to show that an applicant is a suitable person to hold a Street Traders Consent.

An application will normally be refused where an applicant has more than one unspent conviction for offences related to the possession of drugs and the last conviction or the date of release from the period of imprisonment is less than 5 years before the date of the application.

Sexual and Indecency Offences

As the holders of Street Trading Consents (for example those who sell ice cream), have access to children, applicants who have unspent convictions for rape, indecent assault, any sexual offence involving children and any unspent conviction for an offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 will normally be refused a Street Trading Consent.

Where an applicant has a conviction for a sexual offence such as indecent exposure, they will normally be refused a Street Trading Consent until they can show a substantial period usually between 5 and 10 years free of any such convictions from the date of conviction or the date of release from the period of imprisonment.

When considering applications, the Council may take into account any information of a sexual nature which does not amount to a criminal offence that is brought to its attention where that information may indicate that an applicant may not be a suitable person to hold a Street Trader Consent. It will normally require a period of not less than 5 years free of such incidents from the date on which the incident occurred or, if more than one from the date of the last incident.

Motoring Convictions

In most cases, motoring offences are unlikely to be relevant when deciding if any applicant for a Street Trading Consent is a suitable person. However, there may be instances where the nature of the Street Trading is such that, by its very nature the

applicant is required to drive (for example ice cream sellers) or the offences are of a serious nature.

In those cases, an applicant for a Street Trading Consent would be expected to show a period usually between 3 and 5 years of any such offences from the date of conviction or the date of release from the period of imprisonment.

Formal Cautions and Fixed Penalty Notices

For the purposes of these guidelines, the Council will take into account cautions and penalty notices, however the longer the period since the caution/penalty notice was imposed the less relevance it is likely to have.

Appendix 2

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Draft Street Trading Policy	
Directorate: **Regeneration and Environment**	**Service area:** Community Safety and Street Scene
Lead person: Alan Pogorzelec	**Contact:** Alan Pogorzelec
Is this a: [X] **Strategy / Policy** [ ] **Service / Function** [ ] **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
We are recommending that Cabinet approve a period of consultation on the following: • adoption of legislation that will allow the Council to regulate street trading, and • approval of a draft street trading policy. This screening assessment is limited to this recommendation.

Appendix 2

3. Relevance to equality and diversity		
All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity. The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are. When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.		
Questions	**Yes**	**No**
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? *(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)*	X	
Could the proposal affect service users? *(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)*	X	
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? *(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)*	X	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? *(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)*	X	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)*		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)*		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6.**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4.**

Appendix 2

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.**

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

We have tried to consider the impact that the policy and adoption of the legislation would have on those that will be affected by the policy. This includes current traders, members of the public and local businesses. We have done this by applying the draft policy requirements and framework to those traders that we are aware of that currently undertake an element of street trading, and also thought about the likely impact of this on local businesses and residents.

There is no empirical data that we can use as part of this assessment, however we will be undertaking a full equality analysis following the consultation that is carried out (subject to the approval of Cabinet).

- **Key findings**

The policy have an impact on local businesses, current traders and members of the public. Although we expect that this impact will be a positive for residents and local businesses (by ensuring fairness and a more effective regulatory framework), we accept that those traders that currently undertake an element of street trading may consider that they are adversely affected by the proposal as they are now subject to regulation that they previously would not have been.

The proposal to undertaken consultation on a policy may result in concern from all of those that would be affected by the policy and regulatory framework should it be introduced.

As we only have limited information regarding those traders that currently undertake street trading, and those that use their services, it cannot be said with certainty that there will not be an impact on any person that has a protected characteristic. We should therefore be mindful of this when carrying out the consultation and ensure that this is taken into consideration by Cabinet when making the final decision with regard to the adoption of the policy and regulatory framework.

- **Actions**

1. We should undertake comprehensive consultation prior to any further decision being made in relation to the formal adoption of the policy and Schedule 4.

2. The consultation must include consultation with groups representing those that share a protected characteristic. 3. This information should inform a full equality analysis that will be carried out in advance of any final decision being made by Cabinet / Council.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	1/8/2026 (following completion of the consultation)
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	1/9/2026
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Alan Pogorzelec (Licensing Manager)

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Andrew Bramidge	Executive Director (Regeneration and Environment)	24/4/26
Councillor John Williams	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy.	21/4/26

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	14/4/26
Report title and date	Draft Street Trading Policy
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Cabinet – 6th July 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	22/4/2026

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Decrease		Conditions would be attached to consents that require holders to dispose of waste in accordance with environmental legislation.		
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				

Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields: None.

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? No.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures: The proposed conditions will ensure that those given consent to trade on the streets will be required to dispose of their waste in accordance with environmental legislation. A failure to do this may result in the consent being withdrawn.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Alan Pogorzelec Licensing Manager Community Safety and Street Scene Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	None.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	n/a
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 630 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer

Public Report
Cabinet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title
Primate Licensing

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report
Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)
Lewis Coates
01709 823117 or lewis.coates@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected.
All

Report Summary
Recent changes to Animal Health legislation include the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 which provide for the licensing of primate keeper. This report seeks to set an appropriate fee for the Primate Licence application.

Recommendations

That Cabinet Recommend to Council that the fees in respect of Primate Licences, in accordance with the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024, be set at £199 for Licence applications and any variation or renewal applications.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Screening Assessment
Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024

Licensing process for keeping primates - GOV.UK

Statutory guidance on the use of penalty notices for animal health and welfare offences - GOV.UK

Penalty notices for animal health and welfare offences - GOV.UK

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
None

Council Approval Required
Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Primate Licensing

1. Background

1.1 The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 came into force on 6th April 2026. It requires all private keepers of primates to be licensed by the relevant Local Authority.

1.2 It is estimated that up to 5,000 primates are being kept privately as pets in the UK. At this stage, the number of keepers in Rotherham is not known.

1.3 The legislation, introduced through secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and passed into law on the 5th of March 2024, prohibits the keeping of primates as pets unless individuals can meet the rigorous conditions of a new licensing scheme, which includes the requirement for licence holders to seek veterinary input on the appropriate care of their animals. Primates have complex welfare and social needs, and the standards are designed to ensure that only those who can demonstrate the highest levels of animal welfare will be permitted to keep primates.

2. Key Issues

2.1 The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 stipulates that where primates are kept outside of premises covered under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, that activity is licensable.

2.2 An individual who keeps, or is proposing to keep, a primate may apply for a Primate Licence. The application must specify a range of details including the species of primate, and the number of primates of each species to be kept under the licence. It must detail the sex, species, date of birth (or if not known, the approximate date), and the number of any microchips implanted, for each primate.

2.3 Before issuing a licence, a suitable officer must inspect the premises specified in the application to determine whether the licence conditions are likely to be met if the application were to be granted. If licence conditions are likely to be met, then a licence can be issued. Conversely, if licence conditions are not likely to be met, then the application must be refused.

2.4 Where the Council is satisfied that a licence can be issued, the licence can be issued for three years unless the applicant specifies a shorter period. The Regulations make further provisions for renewal, variation, revocation and surrender of licences, together with provisions in the event of the death of a licence holder.

2.5 Where a three-year licence is in place, a suitable officer from the Local Authority must inspect the premises at least once during the licence period in respect of compliance.

2.6 The Council may set a fee for the application and a fee for any inspections. There is already a fee set for Dangerous Wild Animal Licences which cover

the same direct and indirect costs of licensing as proposed for Primate Licensing. Consequently, the same fee of £199 is proposed for the Licence fee along with any variation or renewal applications.

2.7 It is an offence, under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, to own a primate and not be licensed under these Regulations. Where conditions of a licence are breached, this is an offence and the Council may serve a Rectification Notice to detail a timeframe in which compliance must be achieved.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 The Council is statutorily obliged to consider applications under the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024, for which a fee of £199 for Licence applications and any variation or renewal applications will be charged.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 There has been no public consultation in relation to the proposal however relevant officers have been engaged in developing the proposals within this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The recommendations, if agreed, will be applied following the decision being made.

5.2 The Service Manager Regulation and Enforcement is accountable for implementing the decision.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 This report proposes introducing a £199 Primate Licence which will be subject to approval at Council. The level of income this fee will generate is not known.

6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 (‘the Regulations’) introduced a licensing regime to protect the welfare of primates kept in England. The Regulations apply to the keeping of any primate in England on or after 6 April 2026 unless the primate is kept under a Zoo Licensing Act 1981 licence or an Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 licence.

7.2 The Local Authority is responsible for administering and enforcing the licensing regime and must also comply with the Statutory Guidance: Licensing Process for Keeping Primates.

7.3 Section 6 makes provisions to allow primate keepers to apply for a licence to keep primates. Section 13(6) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 does provide for offences for failure to licence licensable activities.

7.4 Section 7 details the means by which any applications should be determined with Section 8 describing the details to be contained within any licence granted together with a three-year licence period, or shorter if requested by the applicant.

7.5 Section 14 makes it an offence for a Primate Licence holder not to comply with licence conditions, for which upon summary conviction a fine might be imposed.

7.6 Regulation 13 addresses fee setting; a Local Authority is able to charge a fee in respect of an application and may also charge a fee in respect of any inspection. In accordance with the Statutory Guidance the Local Authority must set fair and reasonable fees and in doing so give consideration to Open for business: LGA guidance on locally set licence fees, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (now Department for Business and Trade) and guidance for business on the provision of services regulations, Principles in the Regulators' Code and Local Government Animal Welfare Group guidance.

7.7 Local authorities must provide information to applicants and licence holders on payment options.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 A screening assessment has been carried out in Appendix 1.

10.2 There are no equalities or human rights implications.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 An assessment has been carried out in Appendix 2.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 There are no implications for partners.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 If fees were not set for primate licences the Council would not be fully utilising provisions provided to support regulatory work.

14. Accountable Officers

Lewis Coates, Service Manager Regulation and Enforcement

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	**Date**
Chief Executive	John Edwards	19/06/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	15/06/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	17/06/26

Report Author: Lewis Coates
01709 823117 or lewis.coates@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's website.

Appendix 1

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024	
Directorate: Regeneration and Environment	**Service area:** Regulation and Enforcement
Lead person: Lewis Coates	**Contact:** Lewis.coates@rotherham.gov.uk
Is this a: ☐ **Strategy / Policy** ☐ **Service / Function** ☒ **Other** **If other, please specify**	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
This report screens the Cabinet paper to establish fees for provisions under the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

Appendix 1

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? *(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)*		no
Could the proposal affect service users? *(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)*		no
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? *(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)*		no
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? *(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)*		no
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)*		no
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? *(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)*		no

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

The establishment of fees and charges is an administrative measure, the legislation has been through national processes before becoming law.

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6.**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4.**

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

Appendix 1

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made**.** Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation. Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).
• **How have you considered equality and diversity?**
• **Key findings**
• **Actions**

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	

5. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:		
Name	**Job title**	**Date**
Lewis Coates	Service Manager Regulation and Enforcement	23rd April 2026

6. Publishing

Appendix 1

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report. A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	23rd April 2026
Report title and date	The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	6th July 2026
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	23rd April 2026

Climate Impact Assessment, Appendix 2, The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 and Animals (Penalty Notices) Act 2022

Will the decision/proposal impact…	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from transport?	None				
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	None				
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None				
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None				

Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	None				
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields: None					

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change? No. The setting of fees in respect of these statutes is an administration process.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures: The setting of fees in respect of The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 and Animals (Penalty Notices) Act 2022 is an administration process with no impacts and consequently no mitigation or monitoring necessary.

Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Lewis Coates Service Manager Regulation and Enforcement Community Safety and Street Scene Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	Not applicable.
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	Not applicable.
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 639 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer